STEAD'S

MAY 12TH 1917.

6D.

THE TRIUMPHAL ARCH OF ALEXANDER 1st IN MOSCOW, WHICH COMMEMORATES THE RE-BUILDING OF THE BURNED CITY, AND THE DEFEAT OF NAPOLEON.

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For a period of over 50 years we have been specialising in Irrigation Equipment, Designing, Inventing, Manufacturing. Billabong Wind Mills, Pumps, Troughing and Fluming are now popular throughout the Commonwealth. Get the benefit of our wide experience; write us your requirements, and we will give expert advice as to the most suitable plant for your conditions.

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Exclusive "Billabong" Features

No other mill has the "Billabong" combined Governor and Regulator. This device not only effectively governs the mill in heavy winds, but provides a means of setting the mill to different speeds. No other mill is fitted with the "Billabong" Pull-out Swivel. These features are exclusively the "Billabong's" by patent rights. This invention makes possible the direct Central Lift and perfect alignment of the Pump Rod. Every farmer knows the Central Lift means Powerful Lift, Correct Balance, and Even Wear.

Then again we draw attention to the new system of split bearings, which obviates the taking down of the mill when, after years of service, new bearings may be needed. The "Billabong" is also fitted with an oil bath lubricating device, which is very effective, and is only in operation when the mill is turning, thus there is no waste of lubricant.

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Triplex and Centrifugal pumps, Pump Jacks, etc., Lift and Force Pumps, Cylinders, Bore Pumps, Windmill Pumps. Working Barrels. Deep Well Working Heads. Rotary, Semi-Rotary, etc., etc.

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"Billabong" Make

Orchardists and others will find "Billabong" Steel Fluming far more handy and efficient than earth channels. No water is lost through soakage, a reliable flow is obtained, and falling-in banks and chance of obstruction is eliminated. It is light, yet strong and rigid; convenient to transfer from place to place; easy to assemble; made in several styles and sizes.

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Cyclone Gates

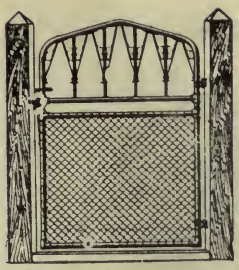

Fig. 240—4 ft. 6 in. high.

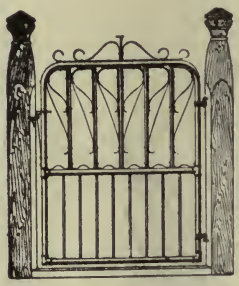

Fig. 231B—4 ft. high.

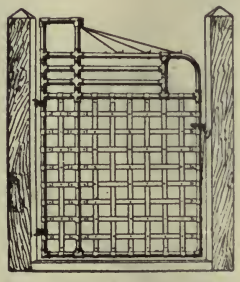

Fig. 244—4 ft. 6 in. high.

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The quality of the material alone would not lift our business along in such healthy fashion; nor would the beauty of our designs, if the quality were not the best; but the combination of the highest standard material and workmanship, with a wide and ever-increasing choice of designs, keeps us right in the eye of the public as manufacturers of gates and fences.

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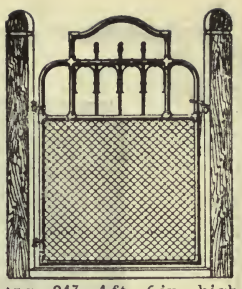

Fig. 243—4 ft. 6 in. high.

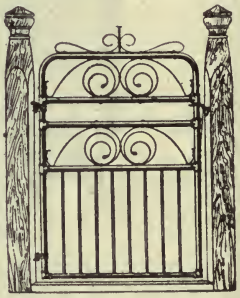

Fig. 248B—4 ft. 6 in. high

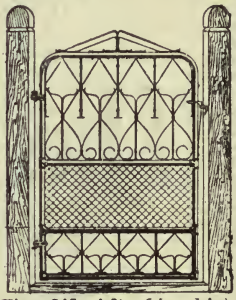

Fig. 245—4 ft. 6 in. high

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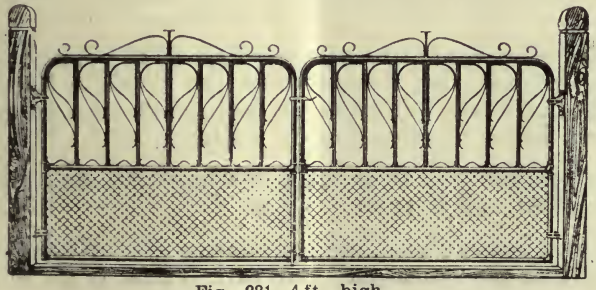

Fig. 221—4 ft. high.

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The Verb "To Do"

A Full Life is Spent in Conjugating it

The happy and productive life is spent in doing things, and in it all mental processes are but stepping stones to action. Even the decision not to do a thing involves an act of volition. The decision itself is then the act.

To illustrate my general theme. It is not enough for me to conceive the idea of this announcement, to consider the argument, to think closely on its method of presentment, to make the decision that I will do it. These are necessary, but something must be *done* to carry the final decision into effect. I must get out of the easy chair where these deliberations have been comfortably made, and *do* something. I must sit at a table, take paper and pencil, think more closely yet, and write.

So with getting a house, laying out a garden, making a home, perfecting an office system, passing an examination, making more money, or keeping an appointment. There is first the internal idea, the considerations of practice, the decision and *the doing*. Your very life is conducted in this way to a good, bad or indifferent passage.

As I have presented this philosophy it sounds easy, but we may have an internal idea which is not worth carrying out; our considerations of practice may be based on insufficient knowledge; our decisions may be wrong; or some excess of thought or feeling may prevent our carrying out a right decision.

Many ideas are poor things from the first, and it requires straight thinking to determine which are worth extending and which are not; the acquisition and retention of knowledge are largely a matter of classification and memory; whilst the carrying out of a decision is dependent on will power and character, and to some extent on physical health and the possession of a cheerful and valiant spirit.

But how are we to think straight? By eliminating side issues and keeping the mind from wandering away from the subject; by applying the laws of analogy and logic; by creating an interest so strong that it will haul into the arena of mental effort everything within our experience that will help us, an interest so concentrated that it will at once cast out foreign thoughts, however pleasant they may be.

And how are we to classify and remember? By learning how, by keeping the mind alert and receptive, by making full use of our five senses, by exercise and practice. Yes, first by knowing how, and then by exercise and practice.

And I think I hear you say that a man may think clearly and brilliantly, may have a marvellous memory, and large stores of knowledge and yet do very little. Of course, he may. Such a man often lets decision wait on circumstance. He fails in the *doing*, because he has not the habit of mind which "carries on." He may lack that sporting kind of courage which enjoys the struggle, he may be governed by paltry, ignoble fears or he may have that nice, gentle, sensitive disposition which prevents him chastising his child for its good.

Can he strengthen himself? Yes, by training. I am not suggesting a policy of perfection. I am recommending a period of training.

The Pelman System of Mind and Memory Training, of which I am the representative in Australia and New Zealand, provides the means. It is my duty and pleasure to see that the means are adapted to each pupil's individual needs. If this article has interested you, write to me at 23 Gloucester House, 396 Flinders Lane, Melbourne, or call on me.

E. H. Welford

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THE COLONIAL BANK OF AUSTRALASIA LIMITED.

THE FORTY-EIGHTH REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS of THE COLONIAL BANK OF AUSTRALASIA LIMITED.

To be Presented to the Shareholders at the Forty-eighth Ordinary General Meeting, to be held at the Bank, 126 Elizabeth street, at noon on Monday, 30th April, 1917.

The Directors beg to submit to the Shareholders their Forty-eighth Report, with a Balance-sheet and Statement of Profit and Loss for the Half-year ended 31st March, 1917, duly audited.

After providing for expenses of management, bonus to staff, interest accrued on deposits, rebate on bills current, tax on note circulation, income taxes, land taxes, and making provision for bad and doubtful debts, the net profit amounted to £27,024 2 9
Brought forward from 30th September, 1916 .. .. 5,483 12 2

£32,507 14 11

Your Directors propose to pay out of the half-yearly profits the following dividend:—
On Preference Shares at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum £10,641 10 9
On Ordinary Shares at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum 4,733 5 6
The balance of the half-year's profits they recommend to be applied as follows:—
To Reserve Fund (making it £280,000) 10,000 0 0
To Officers' Provident Fund 1,000 0 0
To increase amount at credit of Profit and Loss Account, by £649/6/6, making it 6,132 18 8

£32,507 14 11

The Directors desire to place on record their regret at the death of Mr. Selby Paxton, which occurred on the 20th November last, after an illness of brief duration, and to express their appreciation of the sterling service he rendered to the Bank with his ability and energy during the long period he so ably occupied the position of general manager.

Mr. James Wilson, the assistant general manager, has been appointed by the Board to succeed the late Mr. Paxton as general manager.

The Dividend will be payable at the Head Office on and after the 1st May, and at the branches on receipt of advice.

By order of the Board,
J. WILSON, General Manager.

Melbourne, 20th April, 1917.

BALANCE-SHEET OF THE COLONIAL BANK OF AUSTRALASIA LIMITED,

For the Half-year Ending 31st March, 1917 (Including London Office to 28th February, 1917)

Dr.			Cr.		
To Capital Paid-up, viz.:—			By Coin, Bullion, Australian Notes, and Cash at Bankers	£1,333,468 7 7	
31,184 Preference Shares, paid in cash to £9/15/- per share	£304,044 0 0		By British War Loan Debentures at £95 per cent., £135,386 17/6; by Commonwealth of Australia War Loan Debentures, Victoria Government Stock and Debentures, Metropolitan Board of Works and Municipal Debentures, £101,319 13/4	236,706 10 10	
77,278 Ordinary Shares of £4/5/- each, paid in cash to £1/15/- per share	135,236 10 0		By Bills and Remittances in transitu and in London	404,328 11 9	
	£439,280 10 0		By Notes and Bills of other banks ..	3,313 0 9	
To Reserve Fund ..	280,000 0 0		By Balances due from other banks	34,676 6 9	
To Profit and Loss ..	22,507 14 11		By Stamps	1,448 9 6	
		£741,788 4 11			£2,013,941 7 2
To Notes in circulation		18,235 0 0	By Real Estate, consisting of Bank Premises		188,610 9 1
To Bills in circulation		156,363 19 5	Other Real Estate		7,585 0 0
To balances due to other banks ..		29 19 3	By Bills Discounted, and other Advances, exclusive of provision for bad and doubtful debts ..		3,023,027 5 1
To Government Deposits— Not bearing interest, £52,232/9/10; bearing interest, £459,452/8/9	£511,684 18 7				
To other Deposits. Rebate, and interest accrued— Not bearing interest, £1,730,128 4/6; bearing interest, £2,074,933 14/8	3,805,061 19 2				
		4,316,746 17 9			
		£5,233,164 1 4			£5,233,164 1 4
To Contingent Liabilities, as per contra	£141,144 16 11		By Liabilities of Customers and others in respect of Contingent Liabilities, as per contra	£141,144 16 11	

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

To Current Expenses (including Salaries, Bonus to Staff, Rents, Repairs, Stationery, etc.)	£40,539 10 4	By Balance brought forward	£5,483 12 2
To Note, Income, and Land Taxes ..	3,770 13 3	By Gross Profits for the half-year, after allowing for interest accrued on Deposits, Rebate on Bills Current, and making provision for bad and doubtful debts	71,334 6 4
To Transfer to Reserve Fund	10,000 0 0		
To Balance	22,507 14 11		
	£76,817 18 6		£76,817 18 6

RESERVE FUND ACCOUNT.

To Balance	£280,000 0 0	By Balance brought forward	£270,000 0 0
		By Transfer from Profit and Loss ..	10,000 0 0
	£280,000 0 0		£280,000 0 0

NOTE.—The customary Auditors' Report and the Directors' Statement, to comply with the "Companies' Act," appear on the official report.

PRIVATE
A. F. GIBBS

131 King Street
Melbourne

PRIVATE GIBBS, who is about to return to the Front, expresses his warm appreciation of the methods of Bradshaw's Business College Pty. Ltd., in the following letter to the Principal:—

"Before leaving you once more for active service, I feel obliged to express my appreciation of your methods of business education. Although, as a Returned Soldier, I had the opportunity of free tuition, the great length of time required to qualify, compared with the short time necessary under your tuition, finally decided me to take up your course. I relied on your judgment at the outset to select those subjects necessary to business success, and now I know sufficient to convince me your advice was correct. Your Shorthand System has surprised me by its simplicity and efficiency. I am certain that with no other system could I have reached a speed of 100 words per minute on unfamiliar matter as I have with yours, working only one hour a day for two months. I believe, when it becomes more widely known, it will take precedence of all other systems of Shorthand at present in use. The corresponding progress I made in my other studies—Book-keeping, Typewriting, and Longhand Writing—was due solely to your complete organisation of the necessary and elimination of the unnecessary. My writing, though still far from perfect, is quite six hundred per cent. better since I have been through your hand and arm control exercises. As one of the returned soldiers, I must thank you for the special attention and consideration, monetary and personal, accorded to us, particularly those means you have adopted in developing our initiative and self-confidence, though not included in the general course. My one regret has been that my state of health has not permitted me to take full advantage of the instructive opportunities you have given me. I can assure you should I return once more I shall avail myself of your help to complete my education and further my interests, as I consider any money invested in education provided by your College will return per year many times its own value."

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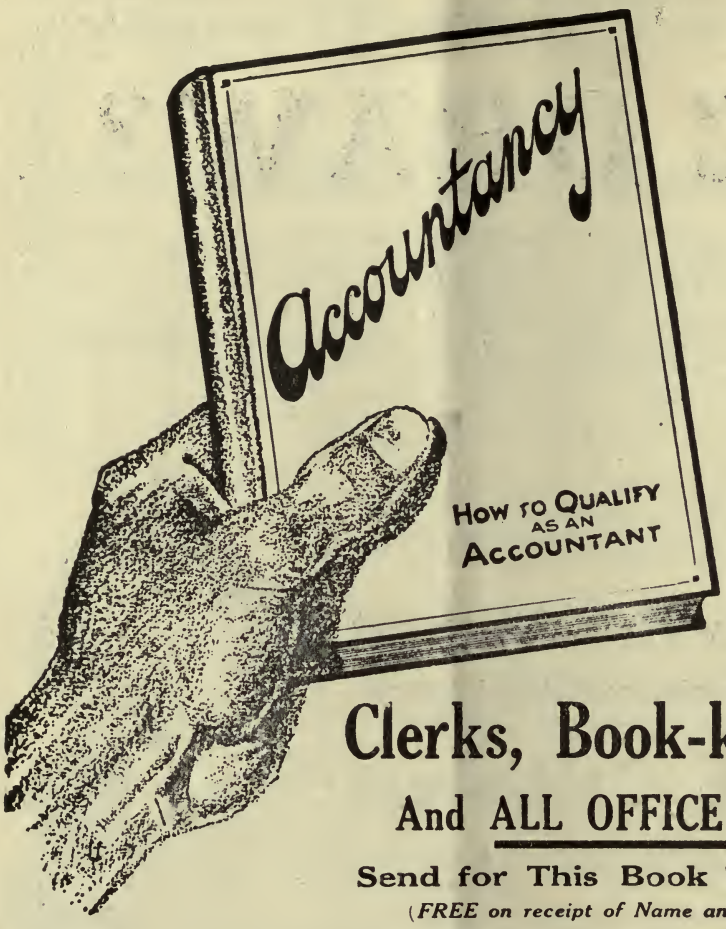

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For MAY 12th, 1917.

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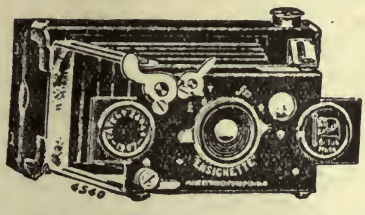

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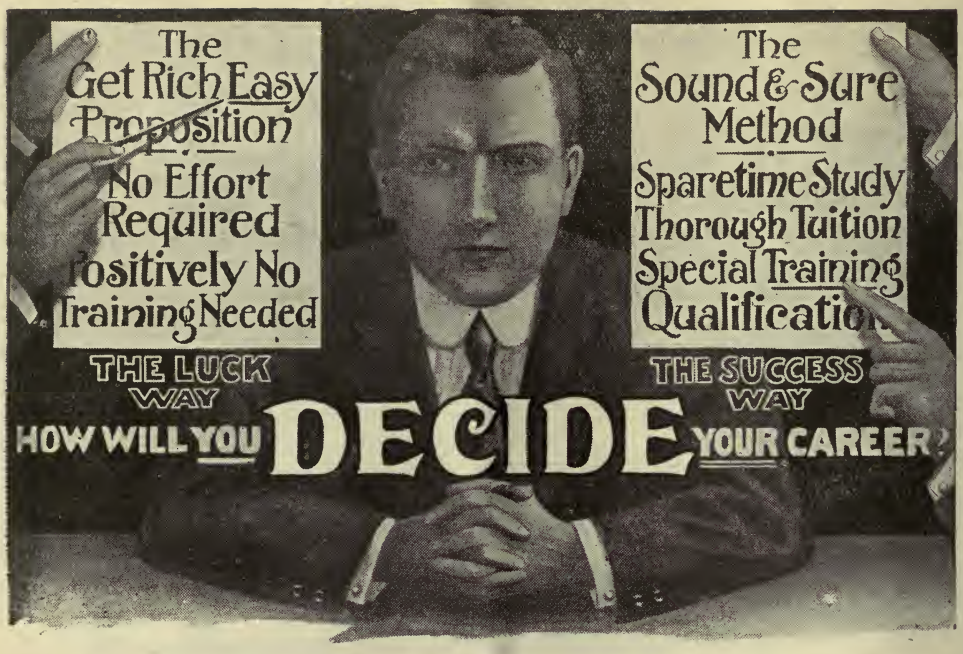

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IMPORTANT!

Increase of Size in STEAD'S

Apart from the winning of the war, there is nothing which claims our attention more urgently than the repatriation of the brave men who are risking their lives in the defence of the Empire. It is of vital importance that arrangements should be made AT ONCE for this great work. They must not be left till the men are beginning to return, and then be improvised in a hurry. There has been much TALK about what we intend to do, but so far as I can find out, little or nothing more has been done. In our next number I intend to publish the first of a series of articles on the matter, dealing with what has already been attempted, with what has been proposed, with what has been done in other countries, and with what ought to be done here.

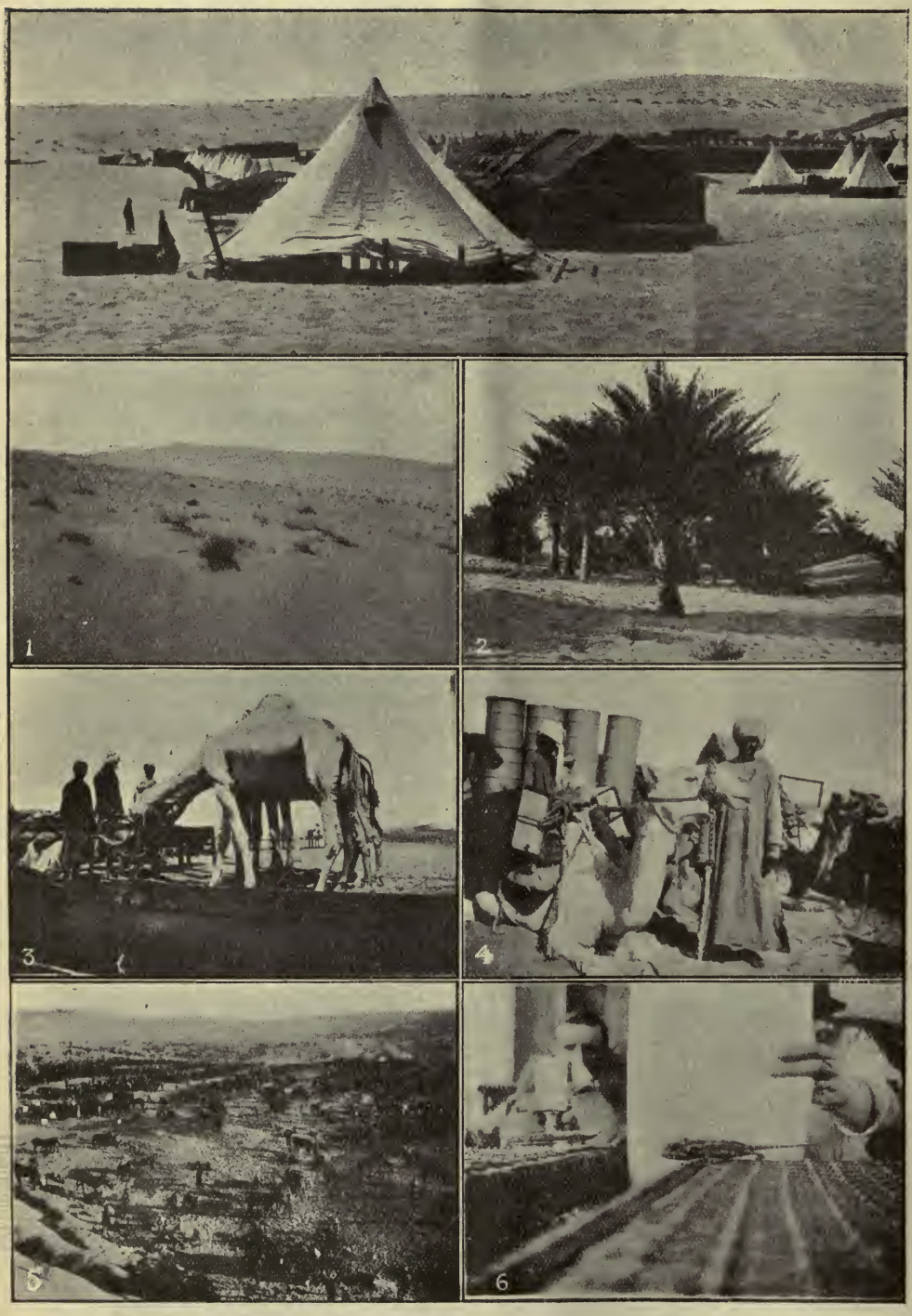
It behoves every man to do what he can to help have Australia do her part in the war, and I intend therefore to publish several articles under the heading, "What can I do to Help my Country?" We can find out what has been done in other lands, and try and follow in the footsteps of those who are doing their utmost to help the Allies to victory.

In order to accommodate these special articles, it is necessary to increase the size of STEAD'S. I have been fortunate in making arrangements to add 16 pages to the magazine without having at the same time to increase the price. In view of the high cost of paper, this is a notable achievement, and will, I trust, be much appreciated by our readers.

I am taking the opportunity of this increase to revive some of the features which lack of space compelled us to abandon two years ago—notably, the sections devoted to book reviews and to the home circle. These will appear again in our next number, as well as the special articles mentioned above.

See that you place a DEFINITE ORDER with your newsagent, or that you have your copy posted from this office, as otherwise you may be too late, and find the issue sold out again. Order form page xx.

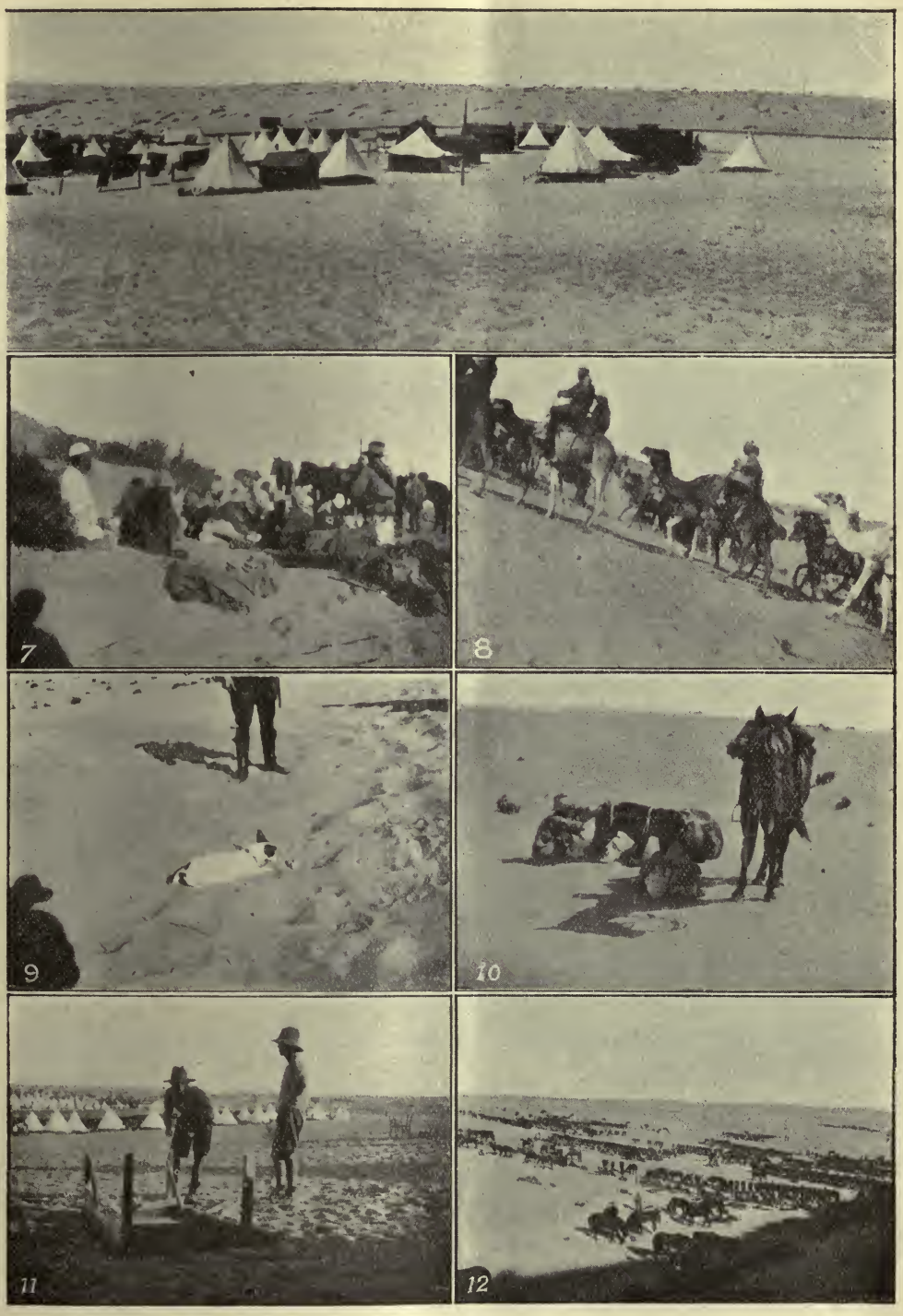
WITH OUR TROOPS ON



GENERAL VIEW OF THE LIGHT

1. What the desert looks like.
2. An oasis with its stunted palms.
3. Watering camels.
4. How water is carried for the troops.
5. View in the desert camp.
6. The changing chameleon

THE SINAI PENINSULAR.



HORSE CAMP IN THE DESERT.

7. Turkish prisoners in camp.
8. Transporting Turkish prisoners to the Canal.
9. The regimental dog catching a desert mouse.
10. The only shade in which to rest.
11. Pumping water for the camp.
12. The bivouac.

[*See page 451.*

WITH OUR ARMY IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN.
The engines that have made our rapid advance possible. This type is being used for light railway work in Mesopotamia with great success.

WHAT HAPPENS TO A TRAIN WHICH COMES UNDER THE FIRE OF OUR GUNS.

MAY 5, 1917.

America to the Rescue.

The fear that the incoming of the United States might actually injure our cause more than it would benefit it has been entirely dispelled by the magnificent manner in which the American Government has come to the rescue of the Allies. The dread had been that Dr. Wilson might yield to a very natural demand on the part of his people that they should first put their own house in order before actively assisting others. That is to say, that a large force should be at once raised, the building of the navy be expedited, things which would naturally absorb much of the raw material so urgently needed in Europe, could not but interfere with the production of munitions for Allied armies. America, however, is following an absolutely unselfish course. Her first care is to be the feeding of the Allies, her next to get them supplies of raw material and munitions, and finally to help them in the field. In reply to the French Mission, President Wilson definitely stated that the order of assistance was to be: Money, food, ships, men. Already Great Britain, France and Italy have been supplied with money, or, rather, with credit. Already American ships have been commandeered by the Government to carry food to Europe. American factories are still working at top speed turning out war material and munitions for the armies in France, Italy and Russia. But most surprising of all, men are to be found by compulsion.

Volunteers for Service Abroad.

The adoption of conscription by Congress was undoubtedly a great surprise to most people, for it had been generally assumed that the polyglot character of the nation would make such a measure almost unworkable. We are having, however, a demonstration of the truth of the assertion, so often made by Americans, that, although the people might be divided in sympathy towards the combatants whilst the United States was a neutral, when she herself plunged into the struggle every citizen would be for the Stars and Stripes, no matter what his nationality. In the Lower House 397 deputies voted for conscription and 24 against. In the Senate 81 were in favour, and eight opposed it. In actual practice it will probably be found that the men America sends to Europe will not be conscripts but volunteers. That is to say, although the obligation of universal service is recognised, compulsion will only be used for raising troops for home service. When it becomes a question of sending soldiers to Europe, volunteers will undoubtedly be

called for. Should these not suffice, then possibly conscript drafts would be sent, but it is certain that for a long time to come America could get all the men she wants for active service abroad without resorting to compulsory drafts at all. One wonders what pay the American conscript will receive. The regulars get a minimum of 2s. daily, and the men of the new army would certainly get that, probably more. An army a million strong, allowing for officers and non-coms, would involve the United States in a pay roll of a million dollars a day—not much, of course, in the colossal total, but still a notable item.

On Behalf of a Nation Almost Spent

It was at first assumed that no American troops would be sent to France for a year or so, but Marshal Joffre and M. Viviani, the French Mission to Washington, implored haste, "making no secret of the fact that they were appealing on behalf of a nation which is almost spent." This appeal of the men who for nearly three years have been responsible for the defence of France, demonstrates still further that the incoming of the United States has saved the situation. It is well for us to frankly recognise that fact because, ere long, there will certainly be bitter feeling once more shown towards the United States Government, and the President in particular, when America insists that German peace terms must be considered, despite the declared Allied intention to refuse to entertain any proposals Germany may make to end the war. In our last number I set forth why the incoming of America gave hope that peace might soon be being discussed. Recent events, showing how dependent the Allies are on America, further strengthens that hope, for obviously what President Wilson says now goes, and the President has showed himself a man of determination who would do what he deemed right, no matter how bitter the attacks upon him, or how violent the protests against the course he adopted. When the war began France had the greatest voice in Allied councils, that preponderance passed later to the richest member of the *Entente*, and now goes to the least exhausted nation which is also the wealthiest in both money and men. That is quite obvious, and it is good to watch the rapid cementing of the friendship between the two great English-speaking countries. Let us hope that this new partnership will always continue, making certain the future peace of the world. That force of circumstances had made Uncle Sam the senior partner in the firm for the time being, need not cause John Bull any resentment.

No American Soldiers This Summer.

The suggestion of Marshal Joffre is that small batches of men shall immediately be sent to France, where they can be properly trained. He deprecates any attempt to mould the volunteers into soldiers in America. If they are once in France, training, under actual service conditions, would be rapid, and the experience of real warfare would make that training far more efficient than it could possibly be in the United States. Although at first this scheme was not looked on with much favour, its obvious sensibleness has won the approval of President Wilson and his advisers. The original opposition to it was due not to sentiment, but to doubt as to whether it was advisable, at this stage, for the Americans to take an active part in the European land fighting. Evidently the Marshal and M. Viviani, by their admission of French exhaustion, convinced the American Government that there was urgent need to send the gallant armies of France immediate relief. It would be possible to begin sending men at once, but there is grave danger that the ships on which they go would not safely run the submarine blockade. It is because of this danger that the suggestion is made that only a few men shall be sent on each ship. Every boat crossing the Atlantic, though, would carry some of them. Still, no matter how promptly the American Government acts, American soldiers cannot be a factor in the fighting in France for many months. Hardly could they take part before winter again forces a brief truce in the west.

President Wilson and Home Rule.

We have a good illustration of the influence which President Wilson already has in Allied councils in the further attempt of Great Britain to settle the Irish question. The President expressed a hope that the British Government would endeavour to remove, as soon as possible, the cause which had brought about unrest in Ireland, and had unfavourably influenced Irishmen in the United States and elsewhere. Recognising the force of the President's suggestion, Lloyd George again got to work to see if Home Rule, already granted to Ireland, could not be actually given her. There was a momentary hope that he would

be able to arrive at a settlement, although obviously the Ulstermen were strongly opposed to it. That hope was quickly dispelled, however, and it again became evident that the Prime Minister had capitulated to the Carson faction. Whether the attempt to bring peace to Ireland was a genuine effort, or merely intended to show President Wilson that his wishes were being met, does not appear. If nothing is done it will once more demonstrate to the world that we, who are fighting for the little nations and for the right of small nationalities to govern themselves, find it impossible to settle the comparatively simple Irish question. It is to be hoped that we will not again have to witness the impotence of the statesmen of Great Britain when it comes to putting their own house in order.

Gibraltar

For the first time publicity has been given to the desire of the Spaniards of Gibraltar to take advantage of our declarations concerning the rights of the subject races to govern themselves. The Spanish Prime Minister recently asserted that Great Britain's retention of Gibraltar undermined Spanish independence, although he at the same time emphasised Spain's natural affinity to England and France. There is, of course, little prospect of our handing back Tarak's mountain to its original owners, but it is conceivable that when the Dardanelles are neutralised the Straits of Gibraltar might be neutralised also. Logically, of course, that should be done, for it is of little advantage to Russia or Roumania to be given free passage through the Dardanelles, if the channel leading to the open sea could at any time be barred at Gibraltar. To permit free ingress into the landlocked sea of the Mediterranean and to retain the keys of the door which gives access to the world, would seem to be of little real use, and undoubtedly the question will come up for discussion at the Peace Conference. The desire to get back Gibraltar is largely a matter of sentiment with Spain, but for Russia, Roumania, Turkey, the Balkan States, Austria and Italy, the neutralisation of the Straits is a matter of considerable concern. Obviously the statesmen who undertake the remodelling of Europe when the war is over will have an exceedingly difficult task before them, and in ways we dream not of.

What They are Doing in England.

England is adopting drastic measures to meet the food shortage. After urging on the people to observe certain meatless days, to deny themselves potatoes, sugar, *etalia*, and limit their consumption of bread, the Food Controller has evidently decided that it will be necessary to ration the nation. Many have wondered why, the need being so great, this step was not taken long ago. The reason is, of course, that whilst every effort is being exerted for the prosecution of the war, it was important to postpone adding a further burden to the load the administration was bearing, until all appeals for voluntary rationing had failed. Now, however, the complicated machinery of bread, meat and food tickets generally will have to be set up, machinery which will absorb thousands of workers who might have been engaged on other important work. That is probably the chief reason why there has been such long delay. Another can be found in the rooted objection to officialdom inherent in the British breast. They are, however, getting used to it now at home, and to illustrate this I quote from a letter I have just received from one of the finest fellows I know in London. He says: —"At present we live in a country that is regulation ridden—and very properly so in these strenuous times. The individual is no longer a free agent—he is part of a machine and is becoming more so every month. A man like myself does not know what to do for the best. He is in this position—a good income, a fairly large house, a wife and four children. Over two years ago the Government appealed for help for the National Relief Fund—result, a good subscription, and I am chairman of local committee. Later, the Government appealed on behalf of Belgian refugees—result, I took a Belgian, have kept him ever since, and have him now. Later, appeal for every man capable of carrying a rifle to train—result, I became a volunteer. Still later I founded, and now run as its secretary the G—— Volunteer Help-Our-Pals League, which raises money to help dependants of former members who have now joined the active forces. Later still—asked to go on the local Pensions Committee, which I did. Still later, an appeal to subscribe to war loan—recommended to pledge future income for this purpose. Result—have contracted to pay £40 a month for a year ahead to help make the loan a success. Next appealed to till the soil, to grow potatoes—result, took an allotment, and for some weeks my bones have ached from the unwonted labour of digging. And now the final appeal—enlist for National Service,

i.e., offer to give up all work under a guarantee of a minimum wage of 25s. a week, with a 17s. 6d. maintenance allowance. Now, to respond to the final appeal means undoing all the rest, closing my house, sending my Belgian adrift, and other things you can deduce. Yet with it all no one is grumbling. We all recognise it is necessary for the cause, and I merely recite these things to show the altered England in which we live."

An Unpleasant Contrast.

This is a typical case. Others all over the country are doing their bit to help; in fact it is rare to find anyone who is not putting forward some special effort to help win the war. After reading letters like these and noting from the newspapers what is being done at home, one cannot but contemplate the wordy declarations about winning the war to which we have had to lend our ears during the last few weeks with some bitterness. We are talking a great deal about helping, but what, after all, are we, who are not fighting, doing, which at all favourably compares with what everyone regards as their bounden duty to do at home? The contrast between our streets, crowded with pleasure-seekers, and the darkened thoroughfares of the great metropolis through which men and women hurry on their way to drill halls, munition factories, or potato patches, is too grim to be contemplated with equanimity! Whilst by his actions the food controller in Great Britain admits the straits to which England has arrived, so far as food is concerned, we are comforted by tales of the starving condition of Germany by accounts of riots and socialistic strikes. Our starvation blockade, we are assured, is more effective than ever, and even if we fail to overcome the German soldier in the field, we are striking him deadly blows indirectly, which will force his resistance to collapse and enable us to dictate crushing terms of peace before long.

The Starving of Germany.

On the other hand a man like Mr. Hoover, who has been in Belgium for months, who has made many visits to Berlin, and who must necessarily have been in touch with those who were constantly travelling about in Germany, declares that the enemy have enough food to last them for two years longer. If they have enough to take them to the time when the 1917 harvest is reaped, a harvest which will include crops from Roumanian fields, then the chance of starvation bringing us victory is remote indeed. It seems incredible that so little really accurate information about the state of affairs in Germany can be obtained. The strikes in the German munition factories and gun-making plants appear to have stopped. The meat ration has been increased, and although the daily dole of bread has been reduced, it is asserted that the thawing of the rivers is permitting Roumanian wheat and maize to be shifted to Germany. If this be true, then the bread difficulty must become less acute. Had the authorities wanted this grain through they could surely have brought it through by rail. That they did not do so suggests that they desired to keep large reserves out of the country with the object of bringing them in only when local production was almost exhausted. The proposal by the British Government that all prisoners of war who had been more than two years in captivity should be removed to a neutral country did not find favour with the German General Staff. The reason is not far to seek. The great majority of British prisoners taken by the Germans were captured during the first few months of the struggle, whereas we bagged very few Germans until last year. The enemy probably think, therefore, that they would benefit very little by the proposal.

Achievements in the West.

Sir Douglas Haig continues to push against the German line in the west, and slowly but surely drives forward towards the new enemy front. To-day's cables tell of the piercing of the "Hindenburg line," but it is certainly doubtful if our men have anywhere got through the defences where the Germans intend to make their stand. As I pointed out in our last number, the British and the French had evidently come up against the line where the enemy proposed to wait their attack, but to north and south fighting was taking place at what might be termed the "hinges" on which the hostile lines had swung back to the position they now occupy. These hinges were presumably somewhat back of the old front, but the enemy still held on to these old defences, and were being slowly dislodged. The pushing back process has been going on during the last two weeks, but even yet the Hindenburg line may not have been reached. The foe are fighting furiously, it is true, are tenaciously hang-

ing on to point after point along the front, but whilst the British have managed to thrust them back with irresistible force, it is entirely patent that they have nowhere pierced their line, or advanced anywhere far enough to endanger the enemy position at Lille. The results achieved by our various offensives are splendid, but it is clearly too soon to assume that anything more has been done than to inflict heavy loss of the Germans. They still hold the vital positions, and their line is unbroken. Still, before we can attack this line it is absolutely necessary to clear the front, and that is being triumphantly done.

Twenty-five Miles in Three Months.

It may be that the enemy will only wait until we have made all the elaborate preparations required for the launching of a great offensive to withdraw further, that they are only pursuing delaying tactics, hoping that the submarines may win victory for them or that Russia may fall out of the struggle. If those are the tactics Hindenburg intends to employ he would wait before falling back to a new line until we were on the eve of beginning our assault. The many weeks which have elapsed since the withdrawal began suggests that it would not be difficult for the Germans to postpone a vital battle for a long time if they so wished. A month ago the fall of St. Quentin was announced, but no great attack has yet been launched against it. If the Hindenburg policy be step-by-step withdrawals, we may expect to learn of German retirement from that town in the cables ere long. If that takes place then we would have a measure of the time it requires to elaborate the Allied arrangements for a great drive against any given point. The retirement began late in February, the British and French were in the outskirts of St. Quentin on April 5th. Let us assume that the Germans evacuate the place on May 10th, that is five weeks later. That would mean that it took us five weeks to prepare for an assault on a place 25 miles east of our old front, and six weeks to get to it—eleven weeks in all. In view of the fact that railways would have to be laid down, roads and bridges repaired, and ranges found, five weeks only means very quick work indeed. From St. Quentin to the Meuse line in sixty miles, and to the Rhine is 190 miles. Not much idea can be obtained from these figures as to the length of time it would take to follow up the Germans as they went on retiring, but that it would be a long job is obvious. Cables assure us that the enemy losses have been much heavier than ours, despite the fact that they were occupying carefully prepared defences which we had to attack. In fact, according to these reports the defending Germans are losing as heavily now as they did when they hurled their masses at Verdun, whilst we, attacking, have losses no greater than those sustained by the French who so heroically defended the empty shell of that fortress. It is interesting to learn, on the authority of Mr. Simonds, that the British now fighting so bravely in Flanders are the volunteers of Kitchener's army, and of Lord Derby's recruiting campaign. The conscripts are apparently not yet in the firing line.

In Mesopotamia.

The situation in Mesopotamia is just now particularly interesting. Within the next few weeks we should know whether the Turks are going to quietly acquiesce in our occupation of Bagdad or intend to try and win back the "glorious city." It has always been a mystery to me why they made no serious attempt to hold the place, once their lines at Kut-el-Amara had been forced, and I could not but recall that, on the previous occasion, when a British force was advancing on Bagdad, the Germans had strongly urged that it should be abandoned—to form a trap into which troops would be poured, troops who depended utterly upon the Tigris for supplies. To cut communications would have been an easy matter, and then the men in Bagdad would have had to surrender. The German advice on that occasion was not followed, and this time it would seem that communications are too strong to be cut. Why then did the Turks give up the city without a struggle? We are told, of course, that they crumpled up because their army was beaten, and reinforcements were not forthcoming, because the Russians were marching from Persia and from the north and threatening their destruction. These reasons seemed sufficient, although it was almost inconceivable that the Turks were short of men. This shortage was, it is true, explained by the presence of Ottoman troops at the European battle fronts, but that explanation was not satisfying, as these troops, all told, cannot have equalled those opposed to the Russians in the Armenian mountains, when the battle of Ctesiphon was fought, and the struggle was going on at the Dardanelles.

The Bagdad Railway Completed

Since the collapse of Serbia we know that hundreds of thousands of additional Turkish soldiers have been armed and trained; therefore, it would seem certain that, if the Turks wished to keep Bagdad, they could have found the troops to defend it. Still, even if soldiers were available they might not have been able to get to Bagdad in time. This assumption suggested that the famous railway was still incomplete. Recent events have thrown a little light on the position, and as thus revealed it gives rise to some uneasiness. I am always being accused of putting things in too gloomy a way, but I hold it better to point out possible dangers than to loudly declare that victory is certain without bothering to examine the facts. There are plenty of people doing that every day, and their unreasoning optimism requires some counterbalance. The Anglo-Indian forces under General Maude have triumphantly pushed the Turks back north of Bagdad, and have reached Khanikin on the Persian border—where they met the Russians—and captured Samara on the Tigris, eighty miles above the city. In his official report of the successful advance along the river, General Maude mentioned that we captured sixteen locomotives and 224 railway trucks, the enemy apparently having destroyed everything else possible. Now where did those locos. and trucks come from? The railway connecting Bagdad with Samara certainly did not need so many locomotives to work it, nor indeed is it conceivable that before the war so many engines and trucks were laboriously brought up the Tigris to operate on such a short length of railway. The capture, then, of this rolling stock certainly suggests that there is rail connection between Constantinople and Mesopotamia, although if that be so it is perhaps surprising that these engines were not got safely away before we reached Samara. Still their presence is a pretty convincing proof that the railway is completed. If that be so, the Turks can get troops to the Tigris if they wish. That is one point. The other of special interest is the date on which the annual floods can be expected to commence.

When the Floods Come.

The winter has admittedly been very severe all over Europe, and the snowfall in Armenia has probably been large. Therefore when the floods do begin they are likely to be high. Every year the Tigris south of Bagdad overflows its banks, and the country in inundated for many square miles. In fact, the river disappears altogether, and a great lake takes its place. Communication with the city from the south is maintained by water, road traffic has to be suspended until the floods fall. It is improbable that the light railway which has been so rapidly run up to Bagdad is raised on trestles. It is certainly laid on the sand. Consequently, when the floods come down the rail communication between the Anglo-Indian army and its base will be interrupted. It will be difficult to get reinforcements up quickly should they be required, and the river transport will have to be strained to keep the Bagdad army properly supplied. If the Turks intend to assume the offensive again, they will obviously wait until the floods have interfered with our communications. These floods are expected as a rule in May, and last until August.

Russian Successes Last Year.

The Mesopotamia campaign is a venture which is being carried on by two of the Allies. Russia is a very important party to its success. We look to join up with the Muscovite armies from Persia and Armenia, Such junction would finally cut off the Turks from Persia, and would be the necessary prelude to an advance on Alexandretta, which would give us Syria as well as Mesopotamia, would paralyse the enemy and end the German dream of finding a "place in the sun" in Asia Minor. This being so, it is vastly important to know what the Russians are doing. Recent cables give us some inkling as to what is going on in Armenia, and the glimpse thus given us is hardly reassuring. The Russians last year followed their capture of Erzerum by an advance south and west, which gave them Bitlis, Mush and Erzingan. They were obliged to abandon the two first named places before the vigorous attack of the Turks, led by the young German General, Gresmann. They, however, quickly recovered, and retook both Mush and Bitlis, advanced so far as to threaten Diarbehr. They halted looking down on the granary of Turkey, the great Anatolian plain. It has never been suggested in cables that the Russians again fell back, and it was indeed confidently asserted recently that from Bitlis the troops of our Ally were pushing towards Mosul with the object of trapping the Turks, who were being chased out of Persia.

No Hope of Anglo-Russian Junction.

During the last few days the cables tell of increased activity on the Armenian front, of activity amongst the Kurds, but still of Russian successes, though these appear to be rather the prevention of Turkish advance than forward movements by the Russians themselves. The Turks claim to have taken Mush, and, as the Russians announce fierce fighting at Oghnat, that claim is probably correct. If, however, they have got Mush, Bitlis is hardly likely to be still in Russian hands, and the hope that our Allies will reach down to join hands with Maude's army at Samara is utterly banished. Real Russian help could only come from Armenia. The force which has junctioned with ours from Persia is certainly a small one, and will have to rest on our communications, does not offer a second route by which supplies and reinforcements could reach General Maude. The news then certainly suggests that there is little prospect of Turkish communications with Persia being cut or of a junction being effected between the British and the Russians. That being so, General Maude would have to rely solely upon his own army should the Turks advance in force on him after the floods are out. That they will do so is, I think, certain, but there is great comfort in the reflection that having experienced disaster once we are prepared for all eventualities now.

A Diversion in Syria.

One of the least understandable incidents reported recently is the shelling of Beyrout by a French cruiser. This is not only an open town—it is also a French town. It has been developed by French enterprise until it has become the centre of trade in Syria. Three Christians live there to one Moslem, and even the street urchins speak French. One would imagine that no good purpose could be served by an isolated ship throwing death into the city. Apparently there was no attempt made to land. The vessel steamed up, fired her guns, and then departed. This brief visit may, however, be the prelude to a descent on the place in force, with the object of throwing an army ashore to strike at Damascus, and thus paralyse the resistance of the Turks to our Sinai troops in Palestine. The advantage of attacking the Turks either at Alexandretta or at Beyrout has long been apparent, but such an expedition would give us yet another "side-show," and by bitter experience we have found that these do not pay. After all, to attack Turkey is merely to keep Turks occupied. Utilise, that is, some of our best troops against Ottomans when we want all we can get to throw against the really formidable foe in France. If the Gaza venture is persisted in, and a landing be made at Beyrout, then we can only assume that these operations are necessary in order to force the Turks to weaken their proximate efforts against General Maude on the Tigris.

A New Command for General Smuts.

As I pointed out a month ago, the glorious victory at Gaza was not a victory at all. That our troops have been compelled to entrench indicates that the offensive has passed from British to Turks, and that, at the moment, we are hanging on rather than pushing forward. There is, of course, no likelihood whatever that the cables will tell of another Kut after the Gaza Ctesiphon, for the Sinai army is near the sea, and that we control. There can be no difficulty concerning supplies or reinforcements. Rumour has already placed General Smuts in command of the operations against Palestine.

Is Italy in Danger?

Not much activity is being shown by Sarrail, a raid here or a mild attack there being all there is to chronicle. The situation in Greece is again said to be unsatisfactory, and Rome reports that King Constantine intends to abdicate. The Russian fronts remain quiet, neither side seeming to intend to assume the offensive. Cables tell of the movements of enemy warships in the Baltic, and it is suggested that the Germans intend to make a landing in the Gulf of Riga, with the object of outflanking the Russians and beginning a drive at Petrograd. Whilst such a move has always been possible, as has often been explained in these pages, it is quite unlikely that the Germans would spend men in an attempt to crush Russia when they still hope to bring about a separate peace by other means. Details now filtering through to this country in neutral papers indicate that there was considerable bloodshed in the "bloodless" revolution. The wagging of the dog by the radical and extremist tail seems to be continuing, and ere long we may see further dramatic happenings in Russia. The Italians assert that the danger of a mighty enemy thrust from the Trentino has now disappeared, the furious assaults of the Allies in the west having presumably compelled von Hindenburg to concentrate all available troops in

IN A PRISON CAMP IN MESOPOTAMIA.
Kurds, Arabs and Persians assembled round the cook house in the camp.

France. It is, however, now generally admitted that the enemy have more troops in the field than ever before, no attack is being made by Russia, Roumania is quiet, Sarrail is still stationery, the prepared lines in the west have been almost reached, so that it is highly probable that if von Hindenburg wants to attack Italy he would not be prevented from so doing by the efforts of British and French in the west. The Italians say they intend to launch a great offensive themselves as soon as the weather permits. That drive can only be at Trieste, and if it begins to succeed an Austrian diversion from the Trentino is to be expected.

MAY 7, 1917.

If Russia Makes Peace.

The news from Russia this morning is easily the most serious that we have had for a long time. In fact, if further messages bear out the suggestions these reports convey, then we may regard this as one of the darkest days for the Allies since the frightful war began! In our last number I gave some indication of what would happen if Russia made peace, and pointed out that, by their definite abandonment of the Constantinople dream, the Russians had made it quite possible for agreement to be arrived at, that we had no longer any bait to offer Russia which would induce her to keep on fighting, and that, if she still continued the struggle, it would be from altruistic motives, from a determination not to abandon her Allies, from a wholly self-sacrificing desire to help them to a victory over the Germans which would benefit her but little. It is hardly necessary to again explain that the soldiers hold the key to the situation in Russia. These soldiers are not the professional fighters who formed the first armies the Tsar rushed to the frontier. They are the workers, the moujiks, the labourers whose business is not to fight but to toil. For weeks messages from Petrograd have admitted that the soldiers hailed the upset of the Tsardom as giving them liberty. We know that the radical and socialistic organisations for months past have been spreading the leven of republicanism and revolt from authority throughout the armies at the front.

The Rival Policies

That propaganda work naturally bore fruit, and the soldiers, when the time came to strike for liberty and freedom from bureaucratic rule, had already begun to think for themselves, were impatient of discipline, evidently demanded to know what advantage they were going to reap if they continued to adventure their lives against the Germans. The mighty armies of Russia, hitherto inarticulate, unthinking machines, began to stir, and the rumble of their waking came insistently to the ears of the Allies, and to those of the eager Germans. The workers of Russia in factory, shop and shipyard, had a powerful organisation controlled by the extremists, and the workers and the soldiers were, in fact, one body. By their help the moderates hurled the Tsar and the bureaucrats from power, and seized the reins of Government. But they held office only on suffrance, only so long as they were able to satisfy the workers and the soldiers, who from being the tail of the revolutionary dog, had become the head. The Miliukoffs, the Rodziankos, the Kerenskys, and their colleagues, are statesmen who regard the struggle from a European point of view, who understand the meaning of the "balance of power," and the wiles of diplomacy. Their masters, however, are concerned only with the way in which the war affects Russia and her people. Thus it comes about that, whilst Miliukoff sees the need for continued efforts against Germany, even if Russia herself wins no direct benefit, the leaders of the workers and the soldiers' delegates talk of peace which will end the frightful slaughter, let the fighters return to their families, and give reformers a chance of putting their own house i order.

An Armistice Probable.

Peace, they say; let us have peace and end this strife which is bringing sorrow and misery to every home in Mother Russia. The appeal of the moderates is not one which holds out any hope of a speedy end to the struggle; offers no notable advantages to the soldiers or the workers. We must stand by our Allies, say they; we must help crush Germany, otherwise, later on, she will rise in her might and enslave us. The newly emancipated workers, and peasants, ignorant of European history, and quite unable to reason concerning what is likely to happen decades hence, will certainly hearken less to the moderates than to their own particular leaders. That German statesmen will strain every nerve to bring about peace with Russia goes without saying. They would offer great concessions, undoubtedly—concessions of a nature calculated to appeal to the masses who are now actually in control of the destinies of the country.

Victory—With Russian Help.

It is amazing to hear people talk as if it made little difference whether Russia ceases to assist us or not. So confident are they that the powerful armies in the west have the Germans beaten that even the withdrawal of Russia from the conflict could not alter the result, although it might possibly postpone the date of our final victory! Such folk ought to look through the papers of 1914 and 1915. There they will see it again and again asserted that the Russian steam-roller is to give us the victory. The position can perhaps best be set forth by a homely illustration. Two men, back to back, are fighting two others who keep each of the central pair fully engaged. In fact, one of these assailants begins to prevail against his opponent, and beats down his guard. Just at this moment the other assailant withdraws from the contest, and his opponent promptly rushes to the assistance of his friend, who was being so badly handled by his adversary. The two men in the centre had managed to hold off their attackers on both sides; must they not have an immense advantage when they can both devote their whole strength to meet the onslaught from one side only?

The Fate of Europe Hangs on the Moujik!

Even assuming, however, that the French and British in the west are able to withstand the shock of the whole force of Germany hurled against them, the withdrawal of Russia means that our starvation blockade would be raised, for once peace were concluded between the Central Powers and Russia, wheat and meat would naturally pour into Berlin and Vienna. Before this crisis the doings of our gallant men in the west, our armies in Asia Minor, the efforts of the Americans to save the situation, sink into insignificance. We can only hope and pray earnestly that Miliukoff and his colleagues will prove strong enough to bend the leaders of the proletariat to their resolution to honour Russia's obligations to her Allies, imbue them with the determination that, come what may, be the German offers ever so honeyed, never, no never will they make a separate peace.

THE FEDERAL ELECTIONS.

A Labour Debacle.

The Federal elections have given the Hughes-Liberal combination a large majority in both Houses of Parliament. In fact, the National Party has swept the country. Mr. Hughes and his colleagues have now a magnificent opportunity. The country has given them what, with one reservation, amounts to a blank cheque to fill in as they will. They have asserted throughout the length and breadth of the land that their only object, their determined aim, was to help win the war. The people of Australia have taken them at their word and have given them such substantial majorities in Representatives and Senate that they can do whatever seems needful to them, without any fear that the Opposition can hamper or hinder them in the slightest way. The country has given them magnificent support, believing that their somewhat vague promises will be energetically developed and be translated into deeds. It is the duty of everyone to help carry out any measures which will, in the opinion of those now charged with the governing of the country, help Australia to strengthen the hands of the mother land in the prosecution of the terrific struggle. It is up to every man and woman of us to do our utmost to assist the men who have the difficult task of steering the Commonwealth through this time of terrible crisis. We have unreservedly entrusted them with direction of Australia's destinies, but our duty does not end there, we have to assist them to the limit of our capabilities to carry the burden we have thrust upon them.

No Mandate for Conscription.

So far as the election itself is concerned, the surprise is that the Nationalists carried New South Wales for the Senate. The voting demonstrates that the people did not believe Sir William Irvine, the Labour candidates and others who insisted that conscription was the real issue. They trusted entirely in the definite assurances of Mr. Hughes and every Nationalist candidate—except Sir William—that conscription was not an issue, and that there was to be no question whatever of its being forced on the people, save with their consent, and that this consent would not be asked until disaster was overwhelming the Allies. On the strength of these assurances opponents of conscription by the hundred thousand voted for the Nationalist candidates. Had they not done so, Labour would certainly have swept New South Wales and South Australia, and have run the Nationalists close in Victoria. Evidently, then, whether conscription were really the issue or not, the people of Australia sent the Nationalists back to power, believing implicitly that compulsory service had nothing whatever to do with the matter, that there would be no question of even a referendum on the question until, as Mr. Hughes declared, the armies of the Allies were sent reeling back in France or a disaster of equal dimensions overtook our cause. The reports of great British and French successes in the west appeared to definitely banish all possibility of such horrid happenings, and the incoming of America must, so it was generally assumed, make final victory absolutely certain. In view of the news from Russia to-day it is, alas! quite possible that, within a few weeks, a situation may arise which would justify Mr. Hughes in having a referendum, would enable him to ask the people whether they would agree to compulsory service, and that without violating any of the pledges he has made on the platform during the election. Be that as it may, our immediate business is to help the Government by vigorously supporting it in the carrying out of those measures it will bring in, the object of which is to enable Australia to better do her part in the titanic struggle. Measures which in the main must aim at making her more efficient, a greater producer and financially independent of outside assistance.

Henry Stead, 182 Collins Street, Melbourne.

TYPE OF RIVER STEAMER USED TO CONVEY SICK AND WOUNDED SOLDIERS DOWN THE TIGRIS.

It takes 72 hours to cover the distance between Kut and Basra.

THE NEW LORD OF THE SEA.

More than two years ago I published an article on the submarine menace, and discussed the question whether the dreadnought or the submarine was lord of the sea. At that time our only concern was whether Sir Percy Scott's assertion, "The introduction of vessels that swim under water has entirely done away with the utility of ships that swim on the top of the water" was true or not. The point to be decided then was whether the submarine had really rendered the dreadnought obsolete. It was a question of submarine v. battleships in those days, not submarine v. merchantmen. After carefully examining the matter, in the light of engagements which had already taken place, I came to the conclusion that the lord of the ocean was the battle-cruiser, and that the submarine as a weapon against naval ships had proved a comparative failure, and this owing to its blindness, but I said, "Clearly the underwater craft is by no means yet supreme, but even now it is a very formidable weapon, and, as it develops, may quite possibly make Sir Percy Scott's words come true," and went on:—

There appears to be no reason why submarines, which at first were smaller than the smallest torpedo-boat, and are now as large as the biggest and most speedy ocean-going destroyer, should not soon equal light cruisers in size, and have an equal surface sped. The limit of sea speed appears to be about 35 knots, and the submarine can no doubt ultimately reach that just as the destroyer, the light cruiser, and the battle-cruiser have. When it does, will the knell of the Dreadnought not have sounded? Hardly, for the submarine will still be blind; will still be easy to sink; will still have to rely exclusively on the torpedo for attack. It might be possible to cover the back of the submarine with armour thick enough to protect it from everything but the heaviest guns. If that could be done the blindness of the craft would no longer be such a serious drawback, for she could run awash until near enough to her victim before diving to make her deadly attack.

Since that article was written events have proved that the conclusions, so far as warfare between submarine and battleships was concerned were perfectly correct, but, when the Germans began sinking merchantmen an entirely different problem was presented. The question was no longer whether the submarine was a match for the dreadnought but whether warships could prevent submarines from sinking merchantmen. The

danger of Britain's naval supremacy being fatally challenged has permanently disappeared, but the danger of her merchant fleet being lost looms more and more menacing. In February, 1915, I pointed out that the little submarine might soon develop into the submersible cruiser, with an armoured back thick enough to give protection from our secondary guns. That tough hide may now protect the latest enemy U boats, and if so they can successfully defy the guns which merchantmen carry. Once get a submarine large enough to wear thick armour, and we have a complete reply to the arming of merchantmen, and the U boat menace becomes terribly grave.

Rear-Admiral Degouy, who is one of the leading naval experts of the world, asserts that the latest enemy underwater craft are virtually submersible cruisers of at least 2000 tons. They are driven, he says, by four Diesel motors of 7000 horse-power, and have a surface speed of 22 knots, whilst they are able to do 14 knots submerged. They are 270 feet long, have eight torpedo tubes—some obviously firing from the sides—and carry 50 automatic mines. The crew consists of fifty men and five officers, including two engineers. This latest product of enemy yards mounts four guns on a nearly cylindrical armoured shell. These guns, he says, are five or six inches, bigger, that is, to say, than those carried by the *Emden*. These submarines, according to his statement, are sufficiently protected "to render them safe from the weak guns mounted on merchantmen." Presumably the Admiral's facts are right. If they are the submersible cruiser I suggested might come, is already taking heavy toll of our merchant ships in the Atlantic.

When the *Emden* was at large she paralysed shipping in the Indian Ocean, but her fate was sealed the moment the *Sydney* caught sight of her. Had she been able to vanish beneath the water she would have escaped despite the superior speed, size and gun power of the Australian cruiser. Apparently small disappearing *Emdens* are now operating on the Atlantic trade routes, in English waters even. The sinking of the *Ballarat* certainly suggests that guns do not now give safety from U boat attacks. Yet the two weapons we have to combat the menace, says Admiral Jellicoe, are "the navy's vigilance and courage and determination of the officers and men of the mercantile marine." If, however, the latest submarines are safely protected from the guns of merchantmen, then one of the weapons on which we have to rely is greviously blunted, and still greater demands will have to be made on the vigilance and courage of the navy.

It is quite evident from the weekly statements issued by the Admiralty that the underwater danger is certainly not diminishing. In our last number I gave a formula for approximately ascertaining the tonnage lost from the number of ships sunk, and showed that last month some 350,000 tons at least must have been sent to the bottom. Since I last wrote two lists have appeared, each disclosing a greater loss than ever before. The first states the number of ships over 1600 tons sunk to be 40 and 15 under that tonnage. The last tells us that 38 ships over 1600 have been lost, and 13 under. Applying my formula, that means 154,000 tons sunk a couple of weeks ago, and 145,000 tons sunk last week. To these have to be added the French, Italian, American and neutral losses.

Although we are assured that every possible effort is being made to cope with the danger, experts continue to tell us that we must expect losses, and that there has not been any method yet found which will adequately account for the submarine. No doubt many enemy U boats are being sent to the bottom, or captured, but we have to remember that others are being rapidly built in Germany, and that it will probably be more difficult to sink the latest products of enemy yards than to account for the earlier unarmoured variety which did the damage in the previous underwater campaign. It really becomes a question whether the shipyards of the United Kingdom and America can turn out vessels more rapidly than the enemy can sink them. Presumably the ships now building will be better able to resist submarine attack, and, being smaller, will have a better chance of escaping the prowling U boats.

The more one reflects over the situation the more obvious it becomes that the best hope of the Allies rest on the production of a great number of ships differing notably from those which are now being sent to the bottom. It takes but one torpedo to sink a 16,000 ton boat; it would take eight to sink eight 2000 ton ships. The chances are that of the eight small ships more than half would get through safely, but the 16,000 ton craft would have little hope of escaping. The smaller boats could be oil-driven, and telltale smoke would not stream from their fun-

nels, advertising their presence to the marauding submarines. In building they could be specially strengthened for the carrying of formidable guns. It, then, is a race between the submarines and the shipyards of the Allies. Can the latter get enough ships afloat to carry food for England's millions, and raw materials for prosecuting the war before the ravages of the U boats shall have interrupted Atlantic traffic?

Sir Joseph Maclay, Shipping Controller, has informed us that the output of British yards last year was less than expected, but that the output for March, 1917, exceeded expectations, averaging 1,000,000 tons a year. The output for 1914 was 1,683,000 tons, and for 1912 it was 1,930,000 tons. The home shipyards will evidently have to do almost double as well as they did in March to even equal their 1912 output! The idea in America is to concentrate on building wooden ships of some 1500 tons. They would be about 200 feet long, would be low in the water, and therefore very difficult for a submarine to find. Diesel engines would give them a speed of fourteen knots. To get quick results the type is to be absolutely standardised, so that the timbers can be sent down from the mills, cut to shape, ready, with a mimimum amount of work, to be bolted into place. Built in this way, it is estimated that the cost would work out at about £20 a ton, and that 1,000,000 tons of wooden shipping could be set afloat within a few months. It is conceivable, therefore, that between now and next May England will have sent out 1,000,000 tons of steel ships, and the United States 1,000,000 tons of steel and 1,000,000 tons of wooden ships, a total of 3,000,000 tons in all. More than that we could hardly expect.

According to neutral observers the German shipyards have concentrated exclusively on the building of submarines. If this be so, then we cannot but fear that they are turning out U boats of the latest type more quickly than we are sinking them, and that the finding of crews rather than of submarines is likely to be their problem.

I have so often pointed out that England and France and Italy are absolutely dependent upon supplies from oversea that it is unnecessary for me to again emphasise that fact. When the Germans announced their intention of sinking without warning any ships found within a certain prescribed area, most of our people made light of their threat—held that it was the last desperate throw of a ruined gambler, the frantic effort of a Government which knew itself doomed to certain defeat, the final counsel of despair of a beaten people. The declaration of the submarine blockade was no reckless attempt to postpone the inevitable, it was indeed a serious bid for victory.

Our starvation blockade has been met in Germany by efficient and careful organisation. The submarine blockade of England can only be met by raising the blockade. Our foes were able to counter our blockade and draw its sting without attempting in any way to strike at our fleet, but only by destroying submarines can we hope to counter what is in effect the German starvation blockade of England. The increasing tale of submarine victims, which carries with it confession that our methods of prevention are not efficient enough to cope with the menace, suggests that some other cause must have been the reason of the abandonment of the German blockade last year. I have always maintained that, on the previous occasion, when the Germans adopted a policy of indiscriminate sinking within certain zones, it was not the measures taken by our navy which caused a suspension of their activities, but the protests of President Wilson. That opinion was ridiculed at the time, but there are plenty of people who believe it now. In fact, it is astonishing to find how quickly views have changed during the last month or so!

Lloyd George promises radical alterations at the Admiralty, and vigorous anti-submarine activity. The best brains of America, England and France are engaged on the problem, and they should not fail us. It would seem that once the submarines reach deep water they are fairly safe, and can carry on their operations without great danger of being sunk. Therefore, the thing to do would surely be to prevent them getting to the open sea. That can only be done by destroying Zeebrugge and coercing Norway. Presumably the U boats are able to manoeuvre more successfully in the deep waters of the Atlantic than in the shallow seas which wash the shores of Britain. When the field of activities was confined to the North Sea and the English Channel, it was possible to net or otherwise bar the outlets from these seas, and thus secure immunity from attack within them. By extending the blockade area the Germans have evidently made their weapon still more deadly.

Tribune.] [New York.

NEAR-SIGHTED OLD LADY TO UNCLE SAMUEL: "Quit your crowdin'! Don't you see what you're doin'!"

Plain Dealer.] [Cleveland.

"YOU LOSE."

Evening Post.] [New York.

PROPINQUITY.

"We're not going to break off relations!"

Evening World.] [New York.

WHAT SHALL THE HARVEST BE?

Sun.] [Baltimore.

THE DASHING WAVES AND THE IMMOVABLE ROCK.

World.] [New York.

THE GHOST THAT IS NEVER LAID.

HISTORY IN CARICATURE.

Oh, wad some Power the giftie gie us
To see oursels as ithers see us.—*Burns.*

Evening World.] [New York.

AMERICA FIRST.

The American papers are naturally full of cartoons upon the probability of a definite break between the United States and Germany. There is evidently a notable desire on the part of all the American cartoonists to show that the nation is entirely united, despite the polyglot nature of its people. The cartoon by Cassel, in the New York *Evening World*, showing Columbia wiping out German from the hyphenates name is typical of this.

The failure of all efforts to avert war is cleverly set forth by Darling in his two cartoons, "The Near-Sighted Old Lady" and "We Need Another Kind of Bodyguard."

The Chicago *Daily News*, in its clever sketch, "More Watchful Waiting," indicates that Uncle Sam was on the verge of plunging into the European trouble.

Cæsar, in *The Evening Post*, cleverly indicates why other neutrals do not follow the example of the United States, and break off diplomatic relations with Germany.

In *The Baltimore Sun*, Barclay conveys a splendid idea of Wilson's attitude throughout the whole crisis. He has presented a rock-like front to both pacifism and jingoism.

Daily News.] MORE WATCHFUL WAITING. [Chicago.

The Independent.] [New York.

PIPE DREAMS.

Tribune.] [New York.

NOBODY BUT HIMSELF TO BLAME.

It looks as if President Wilson were going to lay the ghost shown in Kirby's cartoon in the New York *World*.

Donahey is always very trenchant when dealing with the question of war and peace.

Journal.] [Providence.

PROPAGANDIST: "Tut, tut, Sam, it isn't dignified to fight."

Land and Water.] [London.

"WILL THEY LAST LONG ENOUGH, FATHER?"

Tribune.] [New York.

EVIDENTLY WE NEED ANOTHER KIND OF BODY-GUARD.

Tribune.] [New York.

PARTNERS IN CRIME.

De Amsterdammer.]

HOLLAND'S POSITION.

Tribune.] [Chicago.

ENCIRCLED.

It is to be hoped that ere long the position he shows in the cartoon, "You Lose," will be altered.

The German submarine campaign is the inspiration of Hope's cartoon, "Encircled," in the Chicago *Tribune*, whilst Dar-

Evening Post.] [New York.

THE SCEPTRE.

Tribune.] [Chicago.

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT.

Eagle.] [Brooklyn.

TALKING THROUGH HIS HAT.

ling in the New York *Tribune*, tries to show that high prices are not entirely due to the war, but have been engineered by the profiteers.

De Amsterdammer very cleverly depicts the situation in Holland. Blockaded by sea and by land, this unfortunate neutral has been obliged to keep her armies under arms ever since the war began.

The Americans are evidently quite sure that Germany is making trouble in Mexico, but they appear to be somewhat doubtful as to whether Germany is behind Carranza or behind Villa.

Daily News.] CHANCE FOR AN EXPLOSION. [Chicago.

GERMAN RETREAT IN FRANCE —BAGDAD—PETROGRAD.

By Frank H. Simonds.*

Mr. Simonds, early in the year, went to France and remained there for several weeks. He was thus able to obtain first-hand information concerning the situation, from the Allies' point of view. He supplemented his French investigations by crossing to England and interviewing the British leaders. In the following article he gives the result of his experience, and comments even more authoritatively than usual on the great struggle. He writes that, when he was in Paris, the Russian situation was regarded as hopeless, and that, unless a great change came, no effective help could be expected from Russia this year. The coup d'etat took place after his visit, and he considers that the military effect will be beneficial to the Allies, and that, if the war lasts until next year—as he expects—it will be one of the decisive elements in the struggle.

I.—On the Western Front.

Save for the German retreat in the West, which has just begun to assume impressive proportions, the two months that have passed since my last article have been marked by no military event of first magnitude. The British victory at Bagdad, since it threatens the Osmanli supremacy in Islam, may prove of great value in Mohammedan history, but it is the Russian revolution, in its first stages while I write, that will claim permanent interest in future history.

At the outset of the present article I wish to review very briefly my impressions as a result of two months in Europe, and of a week at British General Headquarters, where I was enabled to see much of the organisation and condition of the new British force in the field and to get a slight knowledge of the spirit of the men and the expectations of their commanders. I desire also to give an equally summary sketch of the views I found in London and in Paris, where I talked with many prominent men, including the British Prime Minister, Mr. Lloyd George, and the President of the French Council, M. Briand.

I should begin by recalling that in my last article in Stead's Review I expressed the view that the war had become a stalemate, and that a decision upon the battlefield was unlikely. I shared then the view held widely in America and found in Europe that the British and even the French people were ready to discuss a peace upon terms that insured the restoration of the *status quo* of 1914, plus some settlements of great outstanding questions, such as the Balkans, African colonies, and Polish and Alsace-Lorraine problems.

Two months in France and Britain convince me that I was mistaken in all these conclusions. I am satisfied that there is no thought in Britain of a peace by negotiation in advance of a victory upon the battlefield, a victory which shall shatter the prestige of the Prussian military establishment. I am convinced that France will not make peace without Alsace-Lorraine, and I found an absolute agreement that not alone should Russia have Constantinople, but that the partition of Austria-Hungary was regarded as the corner-stone of permanent peace.

As far as the military situation was concerned, there was a fixed belief in the British army that the German military machine was slowly but surely breaking down, and that the ultimate defeat of this army in the field was only a matter of time, conceivably not to come until 1918, but certainly not to be postponed longer. The individual British soldier held this opinion, based upon his own personal observation of what was taking place before him, his experience with the steadily rising tide of German desertion, and his recognition of the declining force of German resistance as he encountered it.

The situation was not different in France. I went back to Verdun, where my readers will remember I witnessed the German attack of last year, and I went over ground that was German last year and is now firmly in French hands. I heard from French officers the story of the last fighting about Verdun which regained for the French Douaumont, Vaux, which I visited, and the ground to the north. To the mind of the French soldier these last conflicts demonstrated the superiority of French organisation and system over the German and proved that the new French commander, General Nivelle, had "found a way" to deal with the trench war, which had become so terrible a burden to the French spirit.

*Written on March 18th.

Neither in the French nor the British army was there any question as to the outcome, save in the matter of time, and on this point I found the French more optimistic than the British. Both armies are equally resolved upon peace *after* victory, and both are satisfied that the signs are already unmistakable.

So far as I could judge by what I saw at the front and back of the front, there is no present prospect of peace in Europe, and there is as much determination as ever to carry on the war to victory. And I must emphasise again the fact that the confidence increases as one approaches the front, and those most assured of complete triumph are the men who are dealing day by day with the enemy across the narrow strip of "No Man's Land."

II.—Submarine Warfare.

While I was in Europe the chief topic of discussion was the new German submarine war. It began while I was in France, and was more than half a month old when I sailed from Liverpool on the last American passenger ship to defy the German blockade unarmed. The facts and the conclusions found in London were about these :—

Everyone in England recognised the gravity of the threat to their existence contained in the latest German attack. It was realised that a year hence the food question might become acute and that if the war were prolonged indefinitely there might even be a threat of starvation two years hence. No one minimised the ultimate danger and all England was voluntarily preparing itself ; a great husbanding of provisions was going forward, and all men and women were voluntarily restricting their food to moderate limits.

On the other hand, no one was hungry nor was there any idea that actual hunger could come within a year at the least. While it was recognised that the navy had not yet hit upon a simple and immediately effective weapon to destroy the submarine, it was known that many submarines had been sunk, and I am able to say on unquestioned authority that on February 15th no fewer than five submarines, two of them belonging to the new class, were destroyed or captured, while in the first fifteen days of the blockade twenty-five had been disposed of.

I think there was a manifest willingness on the part of the British Government to permit the reports of the submarine peril to be printed in full, that they might contribute to giving the people a full measure and perhaps more than a full measure of possible danger, and thus prepare the way for extensive regulation. Certainly there was no terror, or fear, and nothing that suggested a renewed desire to make peace in the face of a fresh threat. My deliberate judgment is that it will be impossible for Germany, by free use of the submarines to compel peace this year, at the very least, and I regard the German hope of bringing England to her knees in six months as fantastic.

On the other hand, the universal belief in Britain was that Germany would live up to her programme in the matter of submarine operations, and thus make war between Germany and the United States inevitable, because the British observers recognised clearly that the submarine was the one and only chance left to Germany to escape from defeat and from disaster. Convinced that German expectations would not be realised, the British did not dissent from the German view that such hope of peace without defeat as remained to Germany was found in the submarine venture.

It would be impossible to exaggerate the joy awakened in Paris by the breaking off of diplomatic relations between Berlin and Washington ; this act destroyed the last platform on which the peace elements in France stood, while it brought new inspiration and new determination to those who believed that the war must go on, and that the safety and future of France would be lost if France composed her quarrel with her German foe in advance of victory and of a liberation achieved by French and British armies.

All France was stirred by the dismissal of Bernstorff ; Paris belonged to the few Americans in the city on the Sunday when the news came, and M. Joseph Reinach, the distinguished French statesmen and publicist, said to me that for France this had been the most important event since the Verdun campaign.

In England there was less emotion, but a solid recognition of advantages gained. Of military or naval help from America there was small expectation, although Lloyd George spoke to me confidently of the future arrival of American volunteers to serve with Allied armies. But there was a feeling that that last danger that German intrigue might involve the United States in a quarrel with England had disappeared, and that the United States was finally approaching a position of practical if not actual alliance with the enemies of Germany. That the United States would enter the war was the general conviction, expressed by soldiers and

statesmen alike. And at bottom this was founded on the conviction that Germany meant to sink all American ships, a conviction that brought to me personally many warnings against sailing home through the blockaded zone.

III.—The British Army.

My readers are familiar with the fact that I have been at times a severe critic of the British army, although most of my criticisms have agreed with the comment of British writers themselves or have been justified by the evidence that became available in the end. It was for this reason that I found my visit to the British front of great interest. In the course of it I met Sir Douglas Haig, the commander-in-chief, the commanders of two of the five armies, and also two of the generals commanding corps in the sector which is now attracting world-wide attention.

As a result of this experience, I should say this: In all the things that are considered the machinery of an army, the British have now passed both the Germans and the French. Their equipment, their armory of heavy artillery, their stocks of munitions, are unequalled, and their soldiers are cared for and provided for as are no other troops about whom I know anything. In the mere matter of heavy artillery the British are now firing four shells to the Germans' one, and at the battle of the Somme their air service took and retained absolute control of the air.

In the first battles the British faced heavy artillery and machine guns with field artillery and rifles, they were destitute of all the utensils of trench war, and the Tommy was compelled to manufacture his bombs out of meat tins. To-day the British have as many trench weapons as the Germans, and many of their best weapons, the products of American invention, surpass those of their opponents. Nor can one fail to realise, riding over the roads, how many thousands of motor trucks have been brought over and what a wealth of transport has been assembled. Whole new railway lines have been created and the old French lines have been double-tracked. Calais and Boulogne have become industrial cities given over to army work, and Havre outranks Liverpool as a port of call for British ships.

Of the British army, one might say that it reminds an American of all that he has heard of the army of the Potomac when Grant came to it in 1864. It is a volunteer army largely commanded by civilian officers, with its high commanders drawn from the old regular army, but proven by long test and representing the survival of the fittest. It represents in rank and file the best of the manhood not alone of the United Kingdom, but of Canada and Australia.

I do not think anyone would claim for this army the military efficiency that belonged to the German army that entered Belgium in August, 1914; I do not believe anyone would claim for its staff and army commanders quite the combination of ability and training which belonged to the army that halted the Germans at the Marne and made the Battle of the Marne the greatest battle in all French history. In the same way one would not have compared Grant's army with the army of Moltke, which six years later disposed of the French imperial forces.

But the new British army is something of the same thing that Grant's army was; it is an immense sledge hammer, made up of men coming from the best manhood of the nation, and the Germans, like the French, have already lost their best troops in battle. It is a volunteer army, because the troops raised by conscription have only just begun to cross the Channel, and it is a volunteer army led by men who have the experience of more than two years of war, and its ranks are filled with the survivors of all the battles from Mons to Bapaume; it is a veteran army.

And the spirit of the British army is this: For two years the men in the ranks have fought off the Germans and held on while they lacked all the resources of modern warfare which belonged to Germany; they have opposed bodies to shells, and rifles to machine guns. Having in this long time successfully held on, they are now conscious of having a superiority in all that machinery means in war, and their spirit remains the spirit of the men who died at Ypres when the odds were five to one and the losses approached actual annihilation.

I have listened to the stories of young officers, whose duty it was to head forlorn hopes in the old days, or to hold on under conditions that held out no chance of victory, and in these stories I have found the key to the present temper of the British army. In those days these soldiers, officers and men, knew that they had no chance of victory, little chance of life; to-day the whole British army feels that it has better than an even chance. It knows the slow but sure decay of German morale going on before it, and it has a conviction of victory growing as the lines creep forward, but

based rather on the human equation than on the war map.

IV.—Bapaume.

By chance I visited General Jacob, commanding a British army corps in the Somme sector, on the very day on which the Germans began their great retreat which is going forward when these lines are written, Sunday, March 18, and he showed me on the map the precise position in which the Germans stood, and explained the dangers threatening them from envelopment. He was speaking of the immediate sector before him and of the villages of Grandcourt and Miraumont. The next day, when I visited Sir Douglas Haig, the Germans had left Grandcourt and the British commander-in-chief showed me on a relief map the new situation. He said, rather dryly, that a similar retirement a year ago would have excited general comment.

From the first week in February onward this German retreat continued. It began with the small recoil about Grandcourt, which straightened a little salient between Serre and Miraumont, but it gradually expanded until it became clear that it affected the whole salient between Arras and Bapaume. Bapaume fell, and then, coincidentally, a similar retirement took place before the French in the Noyon salient to the south, and this established the fact that the Germans were making the greatest retreat since the Marne and that a very considerable change in the western front was to take place, a change that will probably be still in progress when this article is printed.

Going backward to last year, I think my readers will remember that I discussed this very question of a German retreat during the earliest stages of the Battle of the Somme. At that time I pointed out that the first objectives of the Allies must be Bapaume and Peronne, and until these had fallen there could be no great show of success. I also explained that when these had fallen a further Allied advance toward Cambrai and St. Quentin would have serious bearing upon the whole German position in the so-called Noyon "elbow," the portion of the German line nearest to Paris and the portion in which occurs the great bend.

Now there are two aspects to be considered—first, that which concerns the causes of the retreat, and, second, the problem of the extent of the retirement. As to the first, the explanation is clear. When the Battle of the Somme began, the German position from the Somme to the Scarpe, that is, from Arras to Bray, was a wide semi-circle described about Bapaume, which was ten miles distant from Arras, from Bray, and from Gommecourt, which was the westernmost point of the German line in France.

Such a salient was not difficult to hold because it was so large that the British and French artillery on the outside of the circle could not cover all the inner positions and thus employ a converging fire sweeping all lines of communication from both sides. But by the close of the fighting last year the semi-circle had been cut in half and the Allied line was but a mile from Bapaume and all the Germans west of the Bapaume-Arras road were under a converging fire and their position was difficult.

In this position they were pounded all winter by superior British artillery. Day and night the guns roared on, the roads were cut, the munitioning and reinforcing of the troops were made difficult, and the strain told so heavily upon the Germans that they began to desert. Thus there was nothing surprising in their decision, when spring came, to leave this bad corner and go back to a new line, drawn straight from Arras, back of Bapaume to Peronne. It was a logical thing to do, and it was a consequence, not of any new British attack, but of the events of last year. It is the harvest of last year's efforts, delayed by the early coming of bad weather last November. But the delay obviously gave the Germans sufficient time to prepare works behind the threatened point.

On the other hand, it is well to recognise that such a retreat as that from the Bapaume-Arras salient included the surrender of a wide sector of the lines that had been prepared during two years of consistent and steady labour and there is little reason to believe that any new line can compare in permanent strength with the line that extended from the Scarpe across the Ancre to the Somme.

V.—What It Means.

Now, in all I wrote last year I pointed out that any German retreat incident to the Battle of the Somme might mean one of three things. It might mean merely a straightening of the line behind the positions that had become hard to hold or dangerous, because of the Allied attack. This would amount to a straightening of the line from Peronne to Arras, comparable with the French operation in the Woevre before Verdun, after the German attack in February, 1916, had brought the Germans into Douaumont. It might mean a retirement to a

second system of defences, a wholly new line stretching from Douai through Cambrai and St. Quentin to Laon, and it might mean a general retirement from all French territory occupied by the Germans west of the Argonne or the Meuse, save a frontier strip extending from Mezières on the Meuse to Lille.

By the second week of March there was no longer any question as to the purpose of the Germans to go back to a new line behind Bapaume and thus to straighten out the Bapaume-Arras salient, become untenable because it had been so narrowed by British advance, and was thus subjected to a converging fire. But the French official reports of March 17th proved that the retrograde movement was to be of a far more considerable character, and was evidently to extend to a withdrawal to the Douai-Cambrai-Laon line, which has begun to be described as the Hindenburg line.

It is safe to conclude now that before the German operation ends the Germans will be out of the famous Noyon salient, the point in their front nearest to Paris, and that their new line will run about twenty miles behind the front taken in September and October, 1914, between the cities of Lens and Laon, if not between Lille and Laon.

We know that on this line a strong system of trench works has been constructed. We know that Cambrai and St. Quentin have been transformed into strongholds and we know that before the war both La Fere and Laon formed a part of the second line of French defences, that between the frontier chain and the outer forts of Paris. Railroads, highways, and the character of the country itself combine to offer the Germans an admirable field for defensive works and British and French observations have established the fact that the Germans, with their usual industry and prevision, have made use of these opportunities.

Conceivably the retreat will not stop on this second line, but will go back to the frontier, where there is a third system of works based on Mezières on the Meuse, Hirson, Maubeuge and Lille and borrowing old French forts, which belonged to the frontier system of French defence, abandoned after the defeats of Mons and Charleroi in August, 1914.

By retiring to the first line, that of Laon-Douai, the Germans will shorten their front by at least twenty-five miles, reduce by 125,000 the number of troops needed to hold the line, and compel the French and British before them to do an enormous work of preparation and construction of roads and railways, before they can attack. By retiring to the frontier line, the Germans will shorten their front by eighty miles, reduce their requirement in man-power by half a million, and still more seriously increase the work of their enemies, which must precede an attack.

We have no idea of the ultimate purpose of German High Command. It would seem that an attack on one or both flanks must follow the retreat in the centre, and that a German offensive must be expected either in Flanders or Lorraine, when the present operations have been completed. But, on the other hand, it is quite possible that Hindenburg, long advertised as an "Easterner," has determined to reduce his western responsibilities to the minimum and deliver his great blow in the East. The Russian Revolution might contribute to such a decision.

What is now being done by the Germans was decided on last September, and very generally discussed. Evidently the Kaiser's purpose to propose peace induced a postponement of retreat, that peace suggestions might be made while the war map was most favourable to the Germans. Now that these political considerations have disappeared military reasons have full sway, and what was looked for last autumn is now taking place.

It is well to reserve judgment on the extent of the German weakness revealed by the present retreat. It may be an absolute confession forced by lack of men. It may be a relatively considerable admission of declining strength, limited to the recoil to the Laon-Douai line. But it may be merely a decision to concentrate all resources on a new attack either against the British in Ypres or the French in Lorraine, it may also be a decision to go to the East, and endeavour to put Russia out of the war by striking Russian armies, disorganised first by German agents in the bureaucracy and then by the revolution provoked by their influences.

We are seeing what must necessarily be but the prelude to the greatest campaign of the war. All the first signs, at Bagdad quite as much as Bapaume, point to German weakness. Germany is in retreat on the western front and is retiring on a scale unequalled since trench war began. This is a tremendous fact, but it is well to recognise that the best-informed military men of the world, Allied as well as neutral, agree that

Germany is still able to strike and to strike heavily. Her blow cannot long be delayed and becomes the more necessary because of the moral effect upon the Germans of recent events in Europe and in Asia.

To-day, however, it is wisest to limit the discussion to the immediate problems, the question whether German retreat will stop at the Laon-Douai line or at the frontier and the question whether there will be a new and collosal German offensive in the West or in the East, reckoning both Italy and the Balkans as possible targets, if the western campaign is abandoned. The Roumanian campaign should be a permanent warning against too sudden and too surprising conclusions based on partial evidence and inexact information.

VI.—Bagdad.

A year ago it will be recalled that the fall of Erzerum was the signal for the beginning of an Allied campaign which continued, through the Russian offensive in Galicia, the Italian capture of Gorizia, and the Battle of the Somme. Unfortunately, the subsequent failure and surrender of the British at Kut brought the Russian offensive to a standstill after it had reached and passed Trebizond and Erzingian. There was, in fact, a recoil in Persia.

After many months of preparation, the British resumed their campaign in Mesopotamia, and the early days of March saw the capture of Bagdad, an event of permanent meaning in all the Near East, both as it restores British prestige, contributes to the wrecking of the German *Mitteleuropa* scheme, and as it may be the first step in the liberation of the Arab from Osmanli supremacy.

The military effect of the fall of Bagdad is immediate and unmistakable. Pressing on through Bagdad and up the Tigris, the British threaten the rear and communications of the Turkish armies fighting in Persia, and almost immediately there was the announcement of the renewed Russian advance through Persia toward the Tigris and from Lake Van toward the head waters of the Euphrates.

Of the eventual military effect this may be said: if the British are able to reach Mosul, toward which they are now advancing, along a section of the Bagdad railway which has been completed, they will be able to join hands with the Russians coming from Lake Van, while a resumption of the Russian drive from Erzerum may reach Diarbekr and Kharput. This would eventually compel a Turkish withdrawal from most of Syria.

Looking now to the political meaning of the fall of Bagdad one may say of this that the Arabs have never loyally accepted the yoke of the Osmanli. They have regarded him as an interloper in Islam, and the decline of Mohammedanism in the world was, in Arab minds, coincident with the coming of the Turk.

For many years there has been a growing restlessness among Arabs. Syria has been on the verge of revolution ever since the Young Turks overthrew Abdul Hamid, and there has been a continuous agitation for Syrian autonomy. The failure of the Turkish expedition against Egypt, the fall of Bagdad, the invasion of Palestine—all these must contribute to shake Turkish power in Syria. But even more important is the recent revolt in Mecca, by which an Arab has gained control of the Holy City and thus deprived the Turk of his chief title to supremacy in Islam.

My readers are sufficiently familiar with that Central European idea of the Germans which was comprehended in the determination to build up a great state, extending from the Baltic to the Persian Gulf, and having for its left line the railroad which descends from Hamburg through Berlin to Vienna, to Constantinople, through Asia Minor and, beyond the Cilician Gates, forks, sending one branch to the Persian Gulf and the other to Suez and Mecca.

The essential detail in this scheme was German supremacy in Turkey and in the Balkans. This was achieved by enlisting the Turk and the Bulgar and by conquering the Serb. But Bagdad and Suez were as essential to this scheme in the East as were Calais and Riga in the West. In all four corners Germany has been forced to halt.

As long as the Turks hold Constantinople and the Bulgar and the Austrian armies keep open the road from the Danube to the Golden Horn, the major fraction of the German plan will remain a fact. Neither the fall of Bagdad nor that of Jerusalem; neither the loss of Mesopotamia nor of Syria would destroy the German scheme utterly, or erect an adequate barrier against future assumption of the German scheme. Such a barrier will exist only when a new strong Serbia has been created along the Danube and the Save and the Russian has been seated at Byzantium; but the fall of Bagdad is unmistakably symptomatic of a declining Turkish strength. It must immediately compel the recall of the Turkish troops lent to the Austrian, the German and the Bulgarian, and it must be accepted as an indication of a decline of German influence and power in the East.

OUR TROOPS IN THE WILDERNESS.*

THE SINAI DESERT.

By a Light Horseman.

Bring before your mind's eye a portion of the bay, where the sandy beach is little lower than the neighbouring plain—say that near Aspendale. There, a few yards from the water, the sandy shore rises in a series of small hillocks towards the road, and is sparsely covered with grasses. Extend the mental picture, and imagine yourself surrounded by miles and miles of that class of billowy sandy country; some parts of it hard enough to support the weight of a horse, in others he covers his coronet at every step, and in many more he cannot find support until he has floundered knee deep into it. Add to this terrestrial appearance an azure blue sky—quite like a clear sky in Australia, but, perhaps, a shade lighter in colour—with scarcely a cloud to be seen, those visible being away in the distance (over the Mediterranean), and appearing not much larger than a tablecloth, and with the sun doing his very best—and that is a good effort, without doubt—you will then have some idea of the desert about 30 miles in from the coast, where there was a camp of light horsemen.

In many places the sand is quite bare, and is continually shifting under the influence of the winds; but, in other parts, it has its own distinct flora. This is not unlike the salt bush of Western New South Wales. It is evidently of the same family. There are quite twelve different types hereabout. Several are thorny, and called "Camel bush." One type is very like the ordinary box-thorn. It grows in clumps, up to six feet in height, and from a small bush, to a big shrub. It bears brilliant red berries which make a pretty contrast to the deep green of its sparsely covered leaves. Another type grows from one root, and has a number of upright stalks in a cluster. This bush tries very hard to produce flowers. It has an inflorescence of soft, feathery units, not unlike the pampas grass in character, the whole being one and a-half inches wide, and from four to six inches in length.

There are two or three kinds of shrubs or herbs which have no thorns. These, one would think, were edible for stock. Their inflorescence is not unlike that of paspalum and English grass; and, if they are not of the salt bush family, should make a fine drought-resisting grass, seeing how well they grow in this dry climate. Water is obtained here at shallow depths, but is mostly brackish. This is, no doubt, the water used by these plants. They grow singly; one does not find two bushes of different types growing on the same hillock. Generally speaking, each bit of scrub, and each tussock of grass, stands on its own little mound. This is quite small, and is formed by the sand being blown about by the wind, and by particles being arrested by the plants themselves.

There are a few birds, not unlike our ground larks, in size and colour. As one passes, these fly out of the shrubs, bearing the bright red berries. When travelling alone, from one oasis to another, one is impressed by the fearful stillness, and the suggested thought that there cannot possibly be life in such a place adds considerably to one's sense of loneliness. It is only by looking closely that one sees that even the desert can support life, though one is occasionally reminded by the bleached bones of animals, that it also takes its toll of its inhabitants and travellers. The desert sand off the track, and on the edge of it, here and there, shows traces of animal life. These are markings, like the track of a snake, and, also, trailing tracks—exaggerated representations of the marks which would be made by a fly, having its feet wet with ink, walking on a piece of paper. These markings are made by lizards and beetles. There are, also, desert dogs, rats and mice. How they live is difficult to determine. The dog is white in colour, but the rats and mice are of yellowish grey, like the sand itself. The dogs live in holes in the sand. One of these dogs had his dug-out a little way from the track; but the movement of the horse scared him. He popped up from the ground, and scampered off, frightening all the common sense out of the offending horse, and causing him to behave very foolishly indeed.

On one occasion a chameleon was caught. It is a lizard about six inches long in the body, with a tail about five inches in length. Its skin is rough, the points of roughness

*See Frontispiece

appearing to be blue-grey, in the shade; but of a tawny colour in the sunlight. These little fellows are insectivorous. They catch their prey on their tongues, which is long, and has a sticky surface.

The oases already mentioned are very pretty. The one now referred to runs up a gully at the foot of sand hills, and is not visible until one rides round one of these hills. Then is seen a number of beautiful palm trees, flanked and backed by other sand hills. These palms were then laden with green dates, which grow in scraggy bunches, not unlike those clusters of flowers one sees upon certain kinds of palms in the gardens around Melbourne. The palms in this oasis are up to twenty feet in height. In Egypt near Cairo they grow much taller. The entrance to the oasis reminds one of going into a fern gully, except that here there is no water. The horses are tied to breast lines, under the shade of the palm trees, which are wrapped around with bagging to prevent the horses injuring them. This protection gives them a weird appearance. The men here do not use tents. They pull down palm leaves, which are from six to ten feet long, and plait them into a dense framework. On this they stretch their blankets, and with saddles for pillows are able to dream of home as comfortably as possible.

The water for the troops and horses is brought here in pipes, from a place in the rear, at which it is pumped by four men working a two-handled pump, two men on each side. This can only be done in comparatively level country. It cannot always be obtained in this way. Many times it is carried on the backs of camels. These animals carry specially prepared vessels, fastened, one on each side of the hump, and each holding about ten gallons of water. Of course, there are other methods of obtaining water, such as finding suitable places and digging wells. This is done by the engineers, and, when the wells are properly fixed up, they are specially guarded.

On one occasion, when camped for the night on the return journey from a successful fly at a Turkisk position, there was a noise of distinct and repeated tapping. It was found that some mules had broken loose, and were pawing at one of these strong water cans. They had smelt the water, and wanted to get at it. During the same night three or four horses, which had been tied together, and pegged, dragged away, and were found, grouped around another can, licking, from the outside of it, the water which had condensed there. Evidently, these animals considered their water ration insufficient, but the sight was distressing. Of necessity, however, one had to be careful as well as kind. These animals had travelled 200 miles in 13 days, and had fought a good fight.

When an important move is being made, every man has his mind engaged upon that portion of the work which falls to his lot, and to which he applies himself with all his ability, so that success may be assured. On such an occasion, orders are issued that there are to be no lights. No billy can be boiled, and not even a cigarette lighted. No bridle chains are allowed, on account of the rattle they make. The baggage train, consisting of several thousand camels, tied head to tail in long lines, sometimes single, sometimes parallel, which convey food and water, require considerable attention.

The troops commenced one of these marches at five o'clock one pleasant evening, and went steadily on until dark, then, still on, for six hours, through the darkness, up and down heavy sand hills, feeling their way through what seemed to be the worst going in the world. Many times during the night they had to dismount, and lead their horses. At about daybreak, they halted for a spell, and, before long, every man was rolled up in his blanket, sleeping as only the tired sleep. The sleeping blanket was carried under the saddle, and this, with twenty-four hours' rations in a haversack, a water bottle, and one feed for the horse in a bag strapped to the front of the saddle, together with a rifle and ammunition, made up each man's equipment. No one washed, or shaved, or was allowed to undress. To get into "bed," one took off one's spurs.

They saddled up again next evening, and went on, and on, for nine hours in dark and fog; so dark and foggy that nothing could be seen in front of one's horse. They rose and fell, as they ascended or descended hills, sometimes riding, sometimes walking, but always bathed in fog. Towards daylight they were again halted, and men and horses fed. Then came the moment for the clash of arms. While the morning mists were rolling away from the Turk's position in front, men and horses, apparently tired out an hour ago, were galloping across the plain, to the rattle of rifles, and machine guns, as keenly eager for the fray as if their journey had not been made. The raid was a complete success. The troops returned to their rest camp, and the enjoyment of a general clean up and increased rations.

The prisoners were subsequently passed on to Cairo. It was easy to get a "snap" of them as they travelled along under a guard, the Turks on horses, and the Bedouins mounted, two on a camel—one on each side of the hump, seated on a framework.

When they had departed, the camp settled down to trifles again, until one particularly windy week, during which a fierce sandstorm broke over all, and blew down tents right, left and in front. The whole place was bathed in sand. As one looked out across the desert, one saw nothing but sand particles being lifted like spray from the crests of waves. It cut like a knife, and was most disagreeable to face, on horseback. When the storm had passed, there was little more than a pleasant breeze with the sun, gently enervating, producing the laziest sensations imaginable. The horses, which for two days and nights were shivering under the rugs, both night and day, were now, in the sunlight and gentle breezes, stretched at full length on the sand, lazily rolling from one side to the other, appreciating to the utmost the more than welcome change. Shortly after the Kamsin, as this duststorm is called, the troops began to move out again, and now few remain.

The air is absolutely still, nothing moves. As one looks over the camp to the desert beyond, everything seems to be waiting for something to happen. The men's blankets, hung in the sunshine, have the same folds and creases in them at evening, which they had in the morning. The tent flaps hang motionless, and even the horses seem frightened to rattle their chains. So sacred, and complete, is the stillness. One feels so small compared with the vastness of the desert, and its varying moods. It blows with rain or sand; or is deadly still. It is as hot as a fierce sun can make it, or it is as cold as polar regions, and, anon, it is pleasantly warm. Ever changing, yet always the same, even the stillness seems to cry out.

One can quite appreciate the mental state of the Bedouin as he sits, in his loose robes, with his face enshrouded in his flowing head gear, swaying with the motion of his horse as it moves up hill and down dale, his mind, partly blank, and partly weaving new dreams of additions to his harem, when Allah is again good to him, or, perhaps, he is lazily estimating the number of goats, or sheep, his equally somnolent progeny are philosophically driving, or leading, from place to place. Whatever thoughts drift across his mental horizon, rest assured they are so tempered as not to upset his philosophical calm — yet, though, this appears to be his normal state, he is a volcano, whose very quiescence seems to heap up potential energy which, when occasion requires, gives evidence of its existence in no uncertain manner.

CANADA AND THE WAR.

Francis J. Dickie, of London, Ontario, contributes a most interesting article to *Current History*, concerning what Canada has done in the world war. He deals first of all with the raising of the army of 500,000 men which the Dominion promised to Great Britain. In a useful table he shows that there are in Canada 1,209,383 men born in the Dominion, 306,381 men born in the United Kingdom, 304,290 men born in foreign countries—a total of 1,677,071 eligible for military service. Of these, 387,508 had enlisted up to January 15th, 1917. Naturally large numbers of men are required for agriculture, mining, fishing and lumbering. In addition, 40,000 are working in munition factories, and a quarter of a million are engaged in railroading. He reckons, however, that altogether 600,000 men are available, so that the 500,000 promised should be obtained.

In order, however, to get the men, the Government has called upon the Indians, of whom there are 10,000 of fighting age in the Dominion; 2000 of these have responded, and many have already fallen on the field of battle. Before the emancipation of the slaves in the United States, Canada was looked upon by the coloured race as a haven of refuge. Thousands escaped to the Dominion by the famous "underground railroad," and the result is that there is a fairly large sprinkling of coloured people now in Canada. The raising of a coloured battalion was begun last August, and by the end of the year some 700 had joined up.

There seems to be some strange spell about this new land which makes even alien races, whose fatherlands are to-day opposed to Canada, take up arms in its behalf. This was most fully evinced in the case of the German residents of Eastern Canada. From the country of Waterloo and other districts adjacent to Berlin, Canada, came men of Teutonic origin over a thousand in number to fight under the flag of the Maple Leaf. German is spoken in the ranks of no less

than two battalions of the Canadian army; and hundreds of these men with such names as Schwartz, Ziegler, Reinhardt, Holt, Winkleman, etc., have figured in the Canadian casualty lists to date.

But it is not only by sending soldiers to France that Canada has assisted the homeland. Mention has already been made of the 40,000 men working in munition factories, 422 of which are now being operated. Two battalions of Canadian lumbermen were raised and sent to England, where they are now cutting down the famous forests of Epping and Windsor, which had been saved for centuries, until they were regarded as almost holy ground. Had there not been submarine interruption in the arrival of supplies from Norway and America, these age-old forests would never have been felled, but the need for timber in the building of trenches, bridges and other necessary things in France became acute, and England made the supreme sacrifice.

But Englishmen are not a race of axemen. The art of the sawyer and the lumber maker were strange to the land. Then it was that Canada, home for two full centuries of the finest bushmen in the world, was appealed to.

Throughout the wide Dominion were thousands of hardy men who had spent all their lives in the fastnesses of the great woods. Lords of lumber, ladrones of logs, looters of limits were they. Since earliest boyhood some of these men had swung an axe, or drawn one end of a crosscut saw; others were proficient in the consummate art of the canthook and the peavy, and still others were masters of the business of sawmilling.

The response was rapid. Two battalions are now in England and Scotland, and a third is about to close a whirlwind recruiting campaign for men. And these soldiers in khaki and overalls are perhaps better serving their country in the capacity of woodsmen than had they shouldered a rifle and gone into the trenches.

Reference has already been made in these pages to the work of Canadian women in the war. Mr. Dickie mentions that there are 200 societies, great and small, now engaged in relief and other kinds of work in the Dominion. The Ontario branch of the Red Cross sent 3,555,803 articles overseas from September 1st, 1914, to July 1st, 1916. From Quebec went 4,453,060 articles, from September 1st, 1914, to June 1st, 1916, and from the whole of Canada it is estimated that 140,000,000 varied articles have been sent by the Red Cross to the battlefields of Europe.

In addition to her army, Canada has given 9782 doctors, nurses, and chemists; has supplied 200 aviators; gave well drillers to aid in the ill-fated Gallipoli expedition; advanced to Russia and operated two giant ice-breaker boats, by which Russia was able to keep open her most important port of Archangel. Canada to April 1, 1916, had supplied 48,000 horses—8000 to France, 15,000 to Britain, and 25,000 for her own army use.

Mr. Dickie makes special reference to the Canadian field kitchens, which can feed 500 men an hour. By means of specially fitted compartments on the Thermos flask system, liquids and solid food can be kept hot, or cold, for a period of from 12 to 24 hours, and the kitchen is also fitted with a small sniping gun for defence. He mentions that when the first Canadian Expeditionary Force, 33,000 strong, embarked near Halifax on September 26th, 1914, fifty of these field kitchens went with them, and since then they have proved so good that they have been adopted by the United States Army. Two hundred are now in use by the Canadians in France.

PAUL MILIUKOFF.

The cables during the last few months have, again and again, referred to M. Miliukoff, but little is known about the man himself. An interesting account of this dominant personality is given by Professor Samuel T. Dutton, in the *Independent*. He recalls the fact that M. Miliukoff went to America in 1908 to lecture, under the auspices of the Civic Forum. He made the journey from Petrograd to New York for the sole purpose of giving his lecture, and after three days he was on his way back to Russia. His subject was "Constitutional Government in Russia," and, viewed in the light of recent happenings in that country, what he said was prophetic. On that occasion he declared for religious toleration, and said that the only true representatives of the Jewish people in Russia were the representatives of his party. He said then that it was far too soon to think of a Commonwealth in Russia.

As a member of the progressive party in the Duma and as editor of a leading paper he has been, for many years, an exceedingly busy man. For, in addition to his official duties, he has lectured throughout the empire on education and historical

topics, and there is no doubt that he has instilled into the minds of the thoughtful Russians the principles of democracy and the need and advantages of popular government.

Some years ago he was asked to lecture at Chicago University, but replying to the invitation he said that he had not learnt English, but that if the lectures could be postponed for one year, he would prepare himself to give them.

Not long after this he was arrested for some of his political activities and sentenced to the fortress for six months. "Now," he said to himself, "is my chance to learn English." In three months he had acquired the ability to read and to write the language. Then he applied to the authorities for a release, so that he could go to England and learn spoken English, with the understanding that at the end of three months he would return and complete his sentence. Permission was granted him. He went to England and at the end of three months was able to speak the language. Then he returned and found the Government indisposed to let him finish his sentence in the fortress. He insisted, however, but was permitted to remain only a short time, from which, it would seem, official Russia has sometimes had difficulty in knowing what to do with some of their statesmen.

He is a master of all the languages spoken in Central and Southern Europe, and is a profound scholar. He was once exiled to Siberia, from whence he escaped. Later he went to Bulgaria, and became a professor in the University of Sophia.

During these years he made a most careful study of the ethnology, history and geography of the whole Balkan peninsula, and is to-day, without doubt, the best living authority on these subjects. He is also the best authority on international law and politics in Russia.

Professor Dutton was a member of the International Commission sent by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace to enquire into the causes and conduct of the Balkan Wars. M. Miliukoff was another of the Commissioners, and Professor Dutton heard from his own lips something of his hopes and aspirations for Russia. As an investigator he found the Russian leader most impartial and alert. He insisted that everything which the Committee published should be verified by the most undoubted evidence.

Professor Miliukoff is blest with vigorous physique, glowing health, abounding courage, and so is just the man to strike without flinching. It may be said of him, as of Samuel Adams, that he inspired the revolution. Without doubt he hopes to see two great ends accomplished: first, Russia victorious in the war; second, Russia freed from the curse of autocracy and political corruption.

Professor Dutton considers that the Allies will give Constantinople to Russia, and that the Turks will be forced to abandon their capital, and retire from Europe altogether. His article was, of course, written before the definite statement by the Russian Government that Russia did not now wish to have Constantinople. Under Russian rule, Professor Dutton considers that the American institutions in Turkey would be no less free to carry on their educational work than they have been in the past, and that, he says, is saying a good deal, "for whatever sins the Turks have committed they have usually treated with tolerance and consideration the Americans and their institutions."

During the risings in Russia in 1905 M. Miliukoff was arrested by General Trepoff and thrust into prison. On that occasion my father was largely instrumental in securing his release, he happening to be in Petrograd at the time.

AMERICAN PROTECTORATE OVER PALESTINE.

Mr. Norman Hapgood, writing from England to the New York *Evening Post*, strongly urges that America should take charge of Palestine, and thus watch over Israel. He considers that the entrance of America into the struggle means much to the Jews, as it influences their prospects in more than one country, and changes the whole aspect of affairs in Palestine itself. "The Jews," he says, "have never desired to have absolute independence; what they need is a land in which their people can dwell and be free to carry out the development of the customs, language and institutions of the Hebrew race; what they want is a practical independence under the protection of a strong power." Any possible divergence of opinion between France and Great Britain, with regard to the disposal of the Vilayet of Syria, would be avoided if America were made the suzerain power over Palestine. Says Mr. Hapgood:—

Only after a complete defeat would the Turk consent to surrendering Palestine to

the protection of a power which has been his enemy in the present crisis. The Turk has been on the whole a good friend of the Jews. He has no such prejudice against them as exists in Christian countries. His lack of interest in industry and education has given the Jews a chance to work out their business institutions and their national schools, two of the principal aims in Zionism. But the reasons are more profound than that. The Turk is accustomed to nations within nations. The Government of an Oriental is not founded on the same ground-plan as that of a Western Power. As long as subordinate people keep the peace and pay prompt tribute, they are left alone to work out their own salvation. The Turkish idea of law and order does not depend upon localities, but upon groups of people, different laws being applied to different nationalities living in the same place.

He considers that one of the secrets of Britain's success in dealing with Orientals is that she has learnt this lesson. When the war broke out, he says, the Jews were given their choice of becoming citizens or leaving peacefully, and he considers that the Turks have, on the whole, treated them remarkably well.

It will be far better for the Jews already in Palestine if the transfer from Turkish rule can be made to a neutral nation, or at least one not too directly connected with the campaign in the East. The protection of Germany is opposed by the Jews themselves because of her tendency to impress her institutions, especially trade and education, upon those under her control. And a German protectorate over Palestine would strengthen the control of the Corridor so dreaded by the Allies.

If the new Jewish state could be made to include Mesopotamia it would be a great protection to British interests. It would serve as a buffer state between the Bagdad Railway and the Suez Canal. Germany, Russia, or any country bent on aggrandisement would hesitate to force America into a future war by crossing a country under her nominal control.

It is not likely that Great Britain would agree to the inclusion of Mesopotamia in such a protectorate. Mr. Hapgood quotes Miliukoff, but it must be remembered that since he wrote that statesman, in common with his fellow Ministers, has renounced all idea of enlarging the frontiers of Russia at the expense of Turkey or any other power.

Mesopotamia fringes the western frontier of Persia between the Tigris and the Euphrates, thereby controlling the whole of the Bagdad Railway line and protecting India. England has a close interest in that part of Syria lying south of Damascus, since control of that region is necessary to protect the Suez Canal. France has a traditional interest in northern Syria. Miliukoff, the Russian liberal leader, has recently declared that France has a right to Coelesyria. He also stated that the future of Palestine lay either in French control or in the international agreement. He said that England's share of the Near East after the war would be Egypt, Arabia, and Mesopotamia, basing part of this contention on the premise that it is England's influence which has supported the recent nationalistic movement which has arisen among the Arabs. The Russians, however, like others, probably exaggerate the various little nationalistic movements that have broken out since the war began in various parts of the world. The Italian imperialists are interested in that part of Asia Minor which lies north of Adalia in the direction of Smyrna. The Turks are thus reduced to their ethnological frontiers.

Should a Jewish state be created, the Holy places of Palestine should, in his opinion, not be included in it, but should be placed under international or American control. Amongst such sacred spots would be the Holy Sepulchre and the Mosque of Omar.

Palestine is the Holy Land to all people, to Christians and Moslems, to Catholics and Protestants. Whatever is done, there must be a setting aside of all places holy to others. The Russians make pilgrimages to the Holy Sepulchre, the Crusades were fought for it. Jerusalem stands second to Mecca in the Moslem mind. But the Oriental recognises extra-territorial rights, governments within governments, and the Jew is essentially Oriental in temperament. He is the natural link between the East and the West, interpreting one to the other and protecting the sacred places of all.

The future of the Jews in countries where they are now persecuted is, he considers, one of the tough problems to be confronted when peace is made, as feeling on all international questions is harder now than when the war began. The position of the Jews in all the countries of the world will, he says, be improved if America can be brought to accept a protectorate over Palestine.

CATECHISM OF THE WAR—XLI.

Q.—Are many merchant ships being built in the United States?

A.—During the seven months ending January 31st, 1917, 738 vessels, of 354,750 tons, were built in the United States, as compared with 555 vessels of 140,234 tons, built during the same seven months last year. On February 1st American private yards were building, or were under contract to build 415 steel ships of 1,529,854 tons, and smaller yards were building or had undertaken to build 161 wooden vessels of 207,623 tons, a total altogether of 564 vessels, whose gross tonnage amounted to 1,702,224 tons.

Q.—Are most of these ships being built for American ship owners?

A.—Of the steel merchant ships building or ordered 99, totalling 451,354 tons were building for foreign flags, 37 of 122,730 tons for American builders, and 33 of 124,371 tons for owners not stated. Since she entered the war ships building for foreign countries have been acquired by the United States, and American shipowners are prohibited from transferring any American vessels to foreign flags.

Q.—Could you tell me how many motor cars were produced in the United States in 1916?

A.—

Motor vehicles produced: 1916, 1,617,708; 1915, 892,618.

Passenger cars sold: 1916, 1,525,578; 1915, 842,229.

Motor trucks sold: 1916, 92,130; 1915, 50,369.

Retail value of motor vehicles sold: 1916, 1,088,028,273 dols.; 1915, 691,778,950 dols.

Average price of passenger cars: 1916, 605 dols.; 1915, 672 dols.

Number of cars and trucks exported first ten months: 1916, 67,616; 1915, 53,380.

Value of cars and trucks exported first ten months: 1916, 100,147,636 dols.; 1915, 94,434,432 dols.

It is not anticipated that there will be such a tremendous production in 1917 as there was in 1916. It is said that in California, for instance, there is one motor car to every eleven of the population! Petrol, which a couple of years ago was selling at 5d. and 5½d. a gallon, now costs 10d., but that is insignificant compared with the 2s. 9d. per gallon which must be paid for petrol in this country.

Q.—In some of the reports concerning the prison camps in Germany, it is stated that there is insufficiency of soap, mattresses, clothes, camphorated oil, and food. Is it not probable that the people themselves are equally short of these things owing to our blockade?

A.—It is probable that the people of Germany are short of soap, and must be in difficult circumstances with regard to clothes, as they can get no cotton or wool. Nor is there likely to be any oil to spare, and it is well known that there is a lack of milk and of butter, and all sorts of animal and vegetable fats. It is certainly unlikely, if the starvation blockade has resulted in reducing the German people to dire straits, that they would continue supplying prisoners with what they themselves lack. There certainly must be a great shortage of tea, of cocoa and of coffee. Consequently it is not surprising to learn that in the prison camps the concoction which goes by the name of coffee is brewed from very dubious ingredients!

Q.—Could you tell me the number of Chinese replacing British workers who, in consequence, can serve in the army?

A.—No particulars have been published, and, in fact, it is not definitely known whether Chinese are being used in Great Britain. Large numbers have been brought over to France, and are working in the fields there and behind the lines, taking the place of Frenchmen who are sent to the front.

Q.—When were consols first created?

A.—In 1751 when nine different Government annuities were "consolidated" into one; hence, the name "Consols." These stocks rose to their highest point in 1896, when the need for investing savings bank moneys sent them up to 114. They touched the lowest point in 1797, when the mutiny on British battleships at the Nore caused a panic. They have nearly reached that low figure to-day—they are quoted at 51½—but that is because they have almost all been converted first into the first War Loan, then into the second, and finally into the Victory loan, which practically embraces all the British national debt. Consols, in fact, have almost ceased to exist.

Q.—Where does Russia get her coal from?

A.—Seventy per cent. of it comes from the mines of Southern Russia, about 20 per

cent. from Poland, and 3 per cent. from the Urals. Some 20,000,000 tons are mined annually. Wood, however, is the national fuel. no less than 150,000,000 tons being used every year for domestic purposes alone. The railways and factories consume another 30,000,000 tons at least.

Q.—Does Russia produce much iron?

A.—About as much as France, viz., some 3.000,000 tons annually.

Q.—Is there much unemployment in England now?

A.—There is practically no unemployment, as so many men have been withdrawn for the army. The percentage reported by trade unions with a net membership of 935,513, was only 0.3 in 1916. The complete figures compiled by the Board of Trade are as follow:—

	p.c		p.c.
1907	3.7	1912	2.4
1908	7.8	1913	2.1
1909	7.7	1914	3.3
1910	4.7	1915	1.1
1911	3.c	1916	0.4

Q.—Will Australia be given a portion of the war indemnities?

A.—It is hardly probable, because the only indemnities that are likely to be paid by Germany will be for the rebuilding and compensation of Belgium, and to make good the damage in Northern France. Great Britain has never formally suggested that she must be paid a great indemnity, in fact, when the war began, many of her leaders stated definitely that she was fighting neither for territory nor for indemnities. If, however, it were possible for the Allies to obtain a large war indemnity from Germany, Australia would presumably obtain a small portion thereof.

Q.—When a property owner is conscripted, who pays the rates and taxes?

A.—They are not paid. He takes advantage of the special moratorium, which it was necessary to declare to meet just such cases. In France rents have not been paid, excepting in rare cases, since the war began, and it is, of course, entirely out of the question to expect the soldier when he comes back to pay the two or three years' arrears of rent which he owes to his landlord. The Government of France has intimated that it does not intend to charge itself with this responsibility either, so that the landlord will come very badly out of the matter indeed!

Q.—If a man enlists and goes into camp, and is afterwards discharged for medical reasons, is he exempted from all taxation?

A.—Certainly not; he becomes again an ordinary citizen, and has to meet the lawful demands made on him by the State.

Q.—Can you tell me what Pan-Germanism means?

A.—It means a movement embracing all Germans, just as Pan-Americanism or Pan-Slavism means, a movement for the union of all Americans or all Slavs. "Pan" is derived from the Greek word "Pas," which means "all." Pan-Germanism has come to be understood as being the union of all the German elements in Germany and Austria with a view to the aggrandisation of Teutonic power.

Q.—Are the French employing Negroes to fight the Germans?

A.—They are employing Sengalese, who are a negro race, and it is said that some of the Belgian native troops from the Congo are fighting in France. The troops which were used to conquer German East Africa were for the most part negroes, although there were several Indian regiments there, and a goodly sprinkling of whites from South Africa and England.

Q.—Has the House of Commons considered the enlistment of Zulus and Basutos?

A.—The matter has been mentioned at different times in the House of Commons, but the Government has apparently never seriously considered the use of South African natives as soldiers in France. These men have, however, been brought over to act as labourers, and thus release white men to fight in the trenches.

Q.—Could a man of military age, born of German parents in Australia, enlist for service at home or abroad?

A.—Quite a number of men born here, whose parents were German, have enlisted and are now fighting in the ranks of the Australians in France. Although many have done this, many more who have remained in Australia are now regarded as aliens.

Q.—What does the Revanche policy in France mean?

Q.—What is known as the policy of *Revanche* was the demand that there should be war waged against Germany with the object of wresting from her the provinces of Alsace and Lorraine, which were taken from France at the Treaty of Frankfurt, which terminated the Franco-Prussian war of 1870-71.

Q.—Why did Germany invade France through Belgium instead of direct across the Franco-German frontier?

A.—The Germans took the route through Belgium, because they wished to avoid the strong fortifications on the Franco-German border, which were deemed invulnerable. That the Germans would take this route was well known. Lord Roberts, for instance, published a book some years before the war began, in which he showed that it was a military necessity for Germany to traverse Belgium if she wished to strike France. It has since been proved, of course, that the fortifications deemed invincible could have been hammered to pieces by the huge German howitzers.

Q.—When an armed ship sights a periscope at a distance of, say, a thousand yards, how does it know whether it belongs to a friendly or a hostile submarine?

A.—It could not tell the difference, but as a matter of fact British submarines would not be submerged in those waters where German underwater craft might be expected to be. Consequently there is no danger of a friendly submarine being sunk in error.

Q.—Is it true that Russia has mortgaged her gold mines in the Urals to Great Britain?

A.—Russia must undoubtedly have given Great Britain some security for the huge sums of money which the latter has lent her. but I have never heard of the gold mines of the Urals having been pledged. In any case these mines are less valuable than formerly, producing only 200,000 ozs. now to the 400,000 mined 20 years ago. The total production of gold in the Russian Empire is only about 1,200,000 oz. a year.

Q.—Could you tell me how much copper the Allies are obtaining from the United States?

A.—In September, 1916, the Allies purchased 448,000,000 lbs., delivery of which was to be completed during the first six months of this year. It is expected that they will require still more than that for the remaining six months of 1917. The total refinery output in 1916 in the United States was 2,311,000,000 lbs., an increase of more than 41 per cent. over 1915. The total exports last year amounted to about 733,000,000 lbs., and domestic requirements accounted for 1,585,000,000 lbs. The price late in November was 35½ cents, but even that tremendous figure has been passed, and the price has now reached 37 cents! It has never been so high since 1872. when the price went up to 44 cents. The Americans intend to continue this tremendous production, for they reckon that the United States Government will require much copper, that if the war goes on the Allies will need more and more, and that when it stops there will have to be heavy reconstruction everywhere. Germany alone is said to need something like 800,000,000 lbs. of the metal to make good that which has been collected throughout the Empire for military purposes.

Q.—Are there many Germans in Brazil?

A.—The total population of Brazil is not definitely known, but it is now estimated at 25,000,000. Between 1820 and 1907 93,000 German immigrants reached the country, and there has been a slow influx since. In 1912, for instance, the immigrants from Germany numbered 5773. Practically all the Germans live in the Southern provinces, and the total number of Brazilians of German parentage is estimated to be about 400,000. Sometimes, it is given as half a million.

Q.—Do the Germans live in separate communities, or do they mix with the other races in Brazil?

A.—They live for the most part in separate communities, but there is considerable intermarriage. Their presence, and that of the Italians, who are more numerous, has made the southern provinces of Brazil far the most prosperous. Lord Bryce, when he visited South America, was much impressed with what these German colonists had achieved.

Q.—Do they take much share in the government of the provinces where they dwell?

A.—They are most numerous in the province of Rio Grande do Sul, their number there being estimated at 250,000. "They form," says Lord Bryce, "a compact community which preserves its national habits and manages its own affairs with little interference by the central Government. It is, in fact, disposed to resent any such interference, and to 'run things,' in its own solid German way." Mr. Hiram Bingham, who is an authority in South American matters, said in 1911, "The Germans in Southern Brazil are a negligible factor in international affairs, but the well-educated young German who is being sent out to capture South America commercially is a power to be reckoned with. He is going to damage England more truly than dreadnoughts or gigantic airships."

Q.—Could you give me the dates on which the various powers declared war against each other?

A.—In one or two cases, acts of hostility were indulged in before the official an-

nouncement of a state of war. These are specially indicated in the following list:—

1914.

July 28—Austria v. Serbia.
Aug. 1—Germany v. Russia.
Aug. 3—Germany v. France.
Aug. 4—Germany v. Belgium.
*Aug. 4—France v. Germany.
Aug. 4—Great Britain v. Germany.
Aug. 6—Austria v. Russia.
Aug. 7—Montenegro v. Austria.
Aug. 10—France v. Austria.
Aug. 10—Austria v. France.
Aug. 12—Great Britain v. Austria.
Aug. 12—Montenegro v. Germany.
Aug. 23—Japan v. Germany.
Aug. 25—Austria v. Japan.
Aug. 28—Austria v. Belgium.
*Oct. 29—Turkey v. Russia.
Nov. 2—Russia v. Turkey.
Nov. 5—Great Britain v. Turkey.
Nov. 5—France v. Turkey.
Nov. 7—Belgium v. Turkey.
Nov. 7—Serbia v. Turkey.
Nov. 10—Montenegro v. Turkey.

1915.

May 23—Italy v. Austria.
June 3—San Marino v. Austria.
Aug. 20—Italy v. Turkey.
Oct. 7—Russia v. Bulgaria.
Oct. 14—Bulgaria v. Serbia.
Oct. 14—Great Britain v. Bulgaria.
Oct. 16—Bulgaria v. Russia.
Oct. 16—France v. Bulgaria.
Oct. 18—Italy v. Bulgaria.
Oct. 18—Montenegro v. Bulgaria.

1916.

Mar. 9—Germany v. Portugal.
Mar. 10—Portugal v. Germany.
*Mar. 16—Austria v. Portugal.
Aug. 28—Italy v. Germany.
Aug. 28—Roumania v. Austria.
Aug. 28—Germany v. Roumania.
†Aug. 30—Roumania v. Bulgaria.
Aug. 31—Turkey v. Roumania.
Sept. 1.—Bulgaria v. Roumania.

1917.

April 6.—United States v. Germany.

*Began hostilities without formal declaration.
†Ultimatum.

Q.—Why is it that in Great Britain and the Dominions vehicular traffic keeps to the left and pedestrian traffic to the right?

A.—Great Britain is almost alone in this custom. On the Continent, of course, all vehicular traffic keeps to the right, as do pedestrians. In the United States, too, that is the custom, and in Canada as well. That the British custom leads to confusion is shown by the fact that the committee which has been entrusted with devising methods of avoiding accidents in the darkened streets of London has strongly recommended that in future pedestrians shall keep to the left in conformity with vehicular traffic. This committee has also recommended the systematic whitening of the kerbstones along the streets, and the picking out of signs and central refuges in luminous paint. It further recommended that those going out at night should wear white bands round their arms. These suggestions sound rather strange to us here, but so many accidents have occurred in London and the other cities of Great Britain in which no lights may appear at night, that they are entirely justified.

Q.—Have any particulars been published concerning the value of the American securities held abroad?

A.—The Americans estimate that, before the war, between four and five thousand million dollars of their home securities were owned by foreigners. In addition, the United States owed Europe at that time about 450,000,000 dollars, which was payable in a few months. To-day not only has the United States paid the current debt, but Europe is now deeply indebted to her. 2,000,000,000 dollars worth of American securities formerly held abroad have been brought back, and in addition America has given Europe credit for about 2,000,000,000 dollars.

Q.—Do women receive the same wages in munition factories as men?

A.—"Equal pay, equal work," has been the formula adopted ever since the Minister of Munitions took over the factories. Women were all paid at the same piece rates as men, and a time rate was fixed at £1 a week. The original arrangement has been slightly amended since, and provides for the payment of £1 for a 48-hour week to women of eighteen years and over, and an extra 6d. an hour for all additional work. This rate, however, applies only to the national factories, and has not yet been extended to the private establishments, where, apparently, women are working on munitions of war for 2¾d. and 3d. an hour. In the national factories the rate is 4d. and 4½d. It is pointed out, however, by the National Federation of Women Workers that a pound a week is, after all, according to pre-war standards, worth only 13s. a week, and it is being paid for work formerly done by men, and admittedly of vital importance to the nation In a recent enquiry it came out that in many branches of munition making not under direct Government control women were only getting 13s. 6d. a week! A starvation wage.

The Aged and Infirm

are sometimes more susceptible to COUGHS and COLDS on the CHEST than the young and vigorous. When an aged person gets a Cold, it is of the utmost importance that not only is the BEST REMEDY taken immediately, but that the Remedy is one that does NOT cause any Heart Depression, nor in any way weaken an already frail constitution. In such a case, HEARNE'S Bronchitis Cure is just THE proper Medicine to use, as it is the QUICKEST, SAFEST and BEST—a Remedy that is just as effective with YOUNG PEOPLE.

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Bronchitis Cure

The Finest Remedy in the World

For Coughs, Croup, Colds on the Chest

The REMEDY with the REPUTATION

Price **2/6** and **4/6** (double size)
From all Chemists and Stores.

If not obtainable in your district, send direct to—

W. G. HEARNE & Co. Ltd.
GEELONG, VICTORIA.

Branch Offices—
Sydney, N.S.W., Wellington, N.Z.

14.

Australian Mutual Provident Society

Established 1849

The Sixty-Eighth Annual Report

just issued discloses

EXCEPTIONALLY FAVOURABLE RESULTS AND CONTINUED PROSPERITY

New Assurances Issued 1916:

Ordinary Department - - -	£6,640,020
Industrial Department - - -	1,038,105
	£7,678,125

Assurances in Force with Bonuses:

Ordinary Department - - -	£108,592,180
Industrial Department - - -	5,552,766
	£114,144,946
Accumulated Funds - - - -	£36,475,570
Annual Income - - - - -	£5,116,410
Cash Bonus Allotted for Year 1916 -	£857,178

The whole of which will be divided among the holders of Ordinary participating policies in force at the close of last year

Total Cash Bonuses Distributed since Establishment - - - - -	£21,553,068
Paid to Members or their Beneficiaries -	£47,342,569

An Increased Rate of Interest Earned, and the Maintenance of Ample Reserves for Policy Liabilities, are Salient Features of the Report

C. A. ELLIOTT, F.I.A.,
Actuary.

H. W. APPERLY,
General Manager and Secretary.

Head Office: 87 Pitt Street, Sydney.

FINANCIAL AND BUSINESS QUARTER.

At the end of March last the amount at credit of depositors in the various Savings Banks in the Commonwealth was approximately £100,000,000.

. . . . .

During the currency of the war Russian Savings Bank deposits have risen from £8,000,000 to £177,000,000. The expansion is authoritatively ascribed to the prohibition of the sale of vodka.

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It is officially estimated that since the beginning of the war, the percentage advance in the cost of food and groceries in Victoria has been 26.2 per cent.

. . . . .

Food prices (retail) in U.S.A. advanced 19 per cent. in the year ended January 15th last, the increase being greater than for the three previous years combined.

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The United States Steel Corporation during the three months ended March 31st last earned £22,600,000. The corporation, it is understood, will subscribe £1,000,000 to the new American war loan!

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Wool exports from Australia from 1st July to 31st March last comprised 1,006,416 bales, as against 1,388,738 bales during the corresponding term in the previous season. Shipments from New Zealand totalled 344,523 bales and 415,780 bales respectively.

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Surely this must be a record! On account of the operations of the firm during 1916, the E. I. du Pont le Nemours and Co. (U.S.A.), munition manufacturers, paid dividends equalling 100 per cent., as against 30 per cent. in the previous year. The gross receipts totalled £63,769,137, comparing with £5,034,189 in 1914, and £5,334,601 in 1913.

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In 1916 Argentina contributed more than half of the sum total of British imports of frozen beef, viz., 1,678,583 quarters, or more than double the quantity received from New Zealand or Australia. Argentina also supplied the United Kingdom with three times as much mutton as was sent from the Commonwealth. The South American republic last year had a favourable trade balance of about 50 millions sterling, as against 66 million sterling for 1915.

Just prior to the entry of the United States into the war, alterations were made to the American Federal Reserve Act "to provide means of controlling an over-extension of loan based on new accretions to our gold stock, and to provide for the mobilisation and concentration of the gold holdings of the United States, so that the flow of gold back into Europe or to South America or the Orient may be arranged without forcing any violent contraction of loans or causing undue disturbance to legitimate business."

. . . . .

The war has been responsible for an enormous increase in the sale of tobacco. For the year preceding the war, the net profits of the Imperial Tobacco Co. amounted to £3,350,000. During the twelve months ended 31st October last, however, the sum earned by the company was £4,030,000 (after making provision for the excess profits tax), the increase in profits being about 50 per cent. larger compared with the results immediately before the war.

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An extremely interesting and informative article upon the "World's Gold Output," appeared in a recent number of the London *Statist*. The writer has delved deeply into his subject, dealing exhaustively with gold statistics from about a century ago, when the world's yield was valued at approximately £1,500,000 (mostly gained from the Ural Mountains in Russia), until 1916, when the value of the gold production had risen to £95,725,000, nearly two-thirds of which was produced in the British Empire.

. . . . .

The last-mentioned total compared with £97,709,000 in 1915, £92,889,000 in 1914, and £93,452,000 in 1913. The aggregate in 1906 was £82,707,000, and in 1857 was £26,655,000, to which the United States contributed £11,000,000, and Australia £12,035,000, the great South African fields not having then been discovered. At the present time, however, the South African production comprises slightly over 47 per cent. of the world's supply!

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The Transvaal gold producing record ranges from £10,000 in 1884, to £39,485,000 in 1916, whilst that of the United States has expanded from £180,000 in 1847, to £19,087,000 in 1916. Since 1884, £513,854,781 has been won in the Transvaal. The world's aggregate for 1916 was

made up as follow:—Transvaal £39,485,000. Rhodesia £3,896,000, West Africa £1,615,000, Australia and New Zealand £8,842,000, India £2,300,000, Canada £4,050,000, U.S.A. £19,087,000, Mexico £2,500,000, Russia £6,000,000, and other centres £8,000,000.

. . . . .

In the early days of the war great difficulties were created by the cutting off of supplies of dyes from Germany, but it is now asserted that the inconveniences have been to a very large extent overcome. Last year the Bradford Dyers' Association had a particularly busy time, the net earnings being the greatest in the history of the concern. The net profits amounted to £641,000, as against £397,300 in 1915, and £226,200 in 1914, the ordinary dividends paid being 15 per cent., 10 per cent., and 5 per cent. respectively.

. . . . .

Ships transferred to the American flag from foreign flags between July 1st, 1914, and February 28th, 1917, numbered 204, of 664,925 tons gross, and ships transferred from the American to foreign flags numbered 405, of 313,811 tons gross. There was thus a net gain of 351,114 tons gross, and a net loss of 201 vessels. The Americans sold their small vessels and bought larger ones.

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The economic situation in Brazil is reported to be excellent, the coffee harvest being very abundant and attracting many labourers from Argentina, where the crops have proved so disappointing. A proposal has been submitted to Congress for a monopoly of the tobacco trade. The monopoly of the manufacture of tobacco for twenty-five years would be put up to public auction. The company to whom the concession is granted must be administered by Brazilians, must have a capital of £784,000, and must lodge £98,000 with the Treasury as security. It must guarantee the State an annual division of profits of not less than £14,700 from 1917 to 1920; £22,500 from 1921 to 1923; £24,500 from 1924 to 1927; and thereafter £49,000.

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Brazilian foreign trade during the first nine months of 1916 was valued as follows:—Imports £27,571,640, and exports £37,432,145, against £21,336,680 and £34,689,385 respectively in the corresponding period of 1915. The two principal articles exported were coffee to the value of £19,207,100 and rubber to the value of £5,301,565. From 1914 to 1916 exportations of coffee have advanced 39 per cent., hides 42 per cent., skins 32 per cent., sugar 872 per cent., timber 350 per cent., manganese 500 per cent. The export of coal, which was a negligible quantity, now occupies an important place in the general exportation movement.

. . . . .

Since the outbreak of the war Turkey has borrowed from Austria and Germany £179,000,000. Speaking in February Djavid Bey, the Turkish Minister of Finance, said he believed the alliance with Germany would continue after the war. In view of this possibility it was no doubt necessary that Germany should procure for Turkey the means to carry out reforms in the country, and that Germany must allow Turkey time to repay the sums borrowed.

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So far as one can judge from external appearances, there is one branch of trade—softgoods and drapery—which apparently has suffered very little, at any rate in Australia, through the exigencies of the war. Apparently, a similar state of affairs exists in Great Britain, where, according to one authority, the "dry goods trade has reaped exceptionally large and unexpected profits," and where "there has not been lavish expenditure so much, perhaps, as a solid intention on the part of many people long deprived of things they wished for, to get them now they have the chance, and preachers of economy do not find it easy to reach the ears of those who reckon they have had to practise thrift too much already." The financial statement of a large Manchester drapery establishment for operations during 1916 shows that the net profits were £422,300, as against £232,700 in 1915, and £87,100 in 1914, which is typical of the prosperity now being enjoyed by many drapery companies in the homeland.

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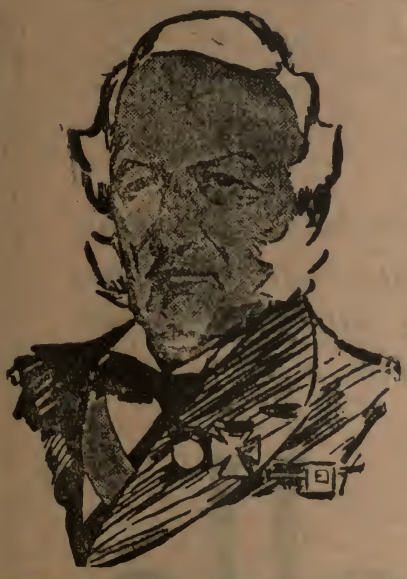
The exigencies of the war have severely tested the strength of many institutions and organisations, amongst the latter in particular being insurance societies and companies. The toll of lives and property has been enormous, but happily the obligations of insurance companies throughout the world have, with few exceptions, been honourably discharged. In Australia the war claims upon the various offices have been considerable, and foremost amongst the organisa-

Sir Joshua Bartlett's

English Treatment for

CATARRH



In less than three years' work in Australia, more than two thousand testimonials have been received from people who have been absolutely cured of Catarrh, Asthma, Bronchitis, Coughs, etc.

Men and women of the very highest standing have used or are using Sir Joshua Bartlett's Treatment. Police Magistrates, Barristers, Solicitors, Members of Parliament, Leaders of Society, Members of the Clergy, representing every denomination, etc., etc., have been cured by it.

Sir Joshua Bartlett's Treatment is not a quack remedy. It is a combination of scientific Medicaments, Apparatus, Fluids, etc., making it the most complete and comprehensive Treatment of its kind in the world.

IT IS THE MOST POWERFUL ELIMINANT OF CATARRHAL POISONS MONEY CAN BUY.

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Sir Joshua Bartlett's Book "The Home Doctor"

DESCRIBING HIS TREATMENT FOR CATARRH.

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tions which have been affected is the well-known Australian Mutual Provident Society. As an indication of the financial strength of this Society it may be mentioned that, despite the fact that it was called upon to pay war claims amounting to £471,489, or £128,436 more than in the previous year, during the twelve months ended December 31st last, the surplus available for division has increased by nearly £20,000. Notwithstanding the depressing times, the agents of the Society have apparently been very active, shown by the figures in the annual report. In the ordinary branch 20,659 new policies were issued, assuring £6,529,981; in the industrial department 26,222 new policies, assuring £1,038,105. The policies in force on 31st December numbered 150,796, assuring £5,524,393, producing an annual premium income of £335,149. The accumulated fund of the Society, including amount at credit of the industrial department and investment fluctuation fund is £36,475,570.

PREMIUM SYSTEMS COMPARED.

By J. A. Butler.

The Halsey premium plan is described by Mr. C. B. Going, managing editor of *The Engineering Magazine*, of New York, as a well-informed effort to get good results in the workshop without making any trouble. The men get their regular day wages, with a reward if they do better, even a little better, than the established record of past performances. When the system is introduced, there is no conspicuous change from the way things have always been done. After studying past records, standard times are set for the various operations upon which the workmen are engaged. In settling these standard times some allowance is naturally made for the probable shortening of the old records under the incentive the premium system is meant to offer, but the controlling consideration is ! How long did the job take on the average when done by good workmen in the past? When any man shortens the standard time he is paid a premium, which is equal to his wages at the regular hourly rate, for a portion of the time saved on the job. This portion is usually 30 per cent. to 50 per cent. of the time saved. The reason for granting only part of the time saved to the workman is to avoid the necessity for fixing hard standards which the men might find it difficult to attain, and also to avoid risk of having to reduce the rate of premium if it be found that the standard fixed is too easy, and a much greater output is possible than was anticipated. Halsey's plan is evidently an easy one to introduce into an ordinary factory. He relies entirely on the workman's knowledge of his job, the workmen's intimate acquaintance with shop conditions, tools, and the details of the operation.

The Gantt system, as explained in Stead's of February 3rd last, aims at teaching the workman the very best known way of doing each item of his work. Because Halsey and Gantt both grant day wages as minimum and add something more if a man exceeds standard performance, there is an impression that the systems are much alike. They are not. Gantt, at the very beginning, makes a minute time study and prepares a carefully elaborated scheme of operations, manipulations, and methods, and proceeds to teach the workmen better ways of doing what has to be done, if better ways are obvious, just as an apprentice might be taught. Halsey is so desirous not to stir things up that he scarcely lets the men know that times are being studied. Gantt is so desirous to make a large output possible that he would make most radical and far-reaching changes if necessary to remove causes of inefficiency. As to which system is best suited to a factory in Australia, the manager must use his own discretion, and be guided by his knowledge of his own men. Halsey relies entirely on the workmen's ability to find ways of shortening the standard time. Gantt analyses each job scientifically, and resolves it into its component parts, and determines the best way, and the minimum time for performing

each part, and will not even let a workman try to earn bonus until the man has been thoroughly instructed by an expert.

Halsey abhors the idea of setting any "task" as the limit a man must reach, but encourages him on by letting him rank for bonus as soon as he beats the record of past performances by ever so little. Gantt glories in a task as a stimulus to effort, and makes such a task—usually a fairly high one—the goal a man must reach before bonus begins. But when a man improves on the task, no matter in how little time he puts it through, he is paid the full price for the work, not a proportion only of the time he saved, as in the Halsey system. The Halsey plan has the advantage of making the transition from ordinary day wages to premium earnings a progress of insensible gradations. Gantt makes a sharp and wide break between day wages and bonus earnings. He also encourages those who can earn bonus to look upon themselves as a special class, entry into which is a desirable goal for those who are still in the no-bonus stage. The strenuous Gantt system might be more difficult to introduce, but it has the advantage to the men that the employer does not reduce the price paid for any given job, so as to avoid paying what is thought too high a rate per hour to a very quick worker. Clearly, as regards the best interests of the general community, it must be admitted that Gantt's methods tend to improve rapidly the skill of the workman. To enable easy comparison of the four principal bonus or premium systems, it may be mentioned that the Rowan methods which were described in STEAD'S of February 3, resembles the Halsey plan.

Mr. Harrington Emerson's efficiency and individual effort system has certain resemblances to both the Halsey and the Gantt plans. Emerson prescribes a standard of production, after scientific study, and offers a rather large bonus—20 per cent.—for reaching it, and after that full payment for all time a man saves, thus agreeing with Gantt, but he leads up to this 20 per cent. bonus reward by a graduated scale of smaller bonus for partial success, thus approaching the Halsey premium plan. Working conditions in the shop are standardised to secure the utmost efficiency, and to prevent waste, and standard times for every operation are determined by careful study. Emerson pays some attention to past experience in the works, whereas Gantt gets each element of a job performed under observation in the best conceivable way, and adds together the times for all the operations, to find the proper allowance for the whole job. He, of course, allows a margin from this perfect time, but he is guided in setting his task by what is possible rather than by what has been the past practice. Halsey is disposed to take good existing shop practice as the standard, and to rely on the skill and effort of the individual workman, stimulated by a bonus, for finding ways of bettering the old records. Emerson takes such records of past performances as Halsey would accept as standards, and refines down by deducting for preventible wastes and losses that have been occurring, and that are to be eliminated by the improvements installed.

The Emerson bonus for a standard performance, that is for 100 per cent. efficiency, is always 20 per cent. of time wages, but an operative has not to achieve standard time before any bonus is due to him. As soon as a man becomes two-thirds efficient, that is when he finishes the job in one and a-half times the standard time set, he reaches a point beyond which he immediately begins to receive a little extra reward. This extra reward increases on a sliding scale. For 66 2-3rds per cent. efficiency there is no bonus, but at 67 per cent. of efficiency the bonus starts, although it is infinitesimal. At 74 per cent. efficiency, the bonus is a 1 per cent. addition to the time rate of pay for the hours worked. When efficiency reaches 90 per cent., 10 per cent. of the time worked is credited as bonus, and with efficiency at 100 per cent. the bonus added is 20 per cent. of the time worked. For still further reductions in time of putting a job through, the workman gets the 20 per cent. bonus plus payment at the hourly rate for all the time he saves. It will thus be seen that the Emerson system has much to recommend it for introduction into works in Australia, where men would be inclined to want full piece rates for work, when they managed to get a job put through quickly. The system could, however, be modified with the greatest ease to almost any extent, on a per centage basis, to make the bonus at any state of efficiency either higher or lower.

In the practical use of the system, the time allowed for all jobs done by a man in one month is added up, and divided by the time actually worked, to arrive at the percentage due as bonus. Calculating each man's bonus for a period of one month in this way, tends to prevent spurting for a limited time to earn bonus, and then slacking off. The same precaution is taken by Gantt, who sometimes gives a second bonus for continuously earning his main bonus.

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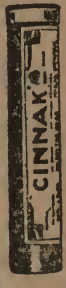

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You, no doubt, have long been wishing to obtain an appliance that would be not only comfortable to wear, but one which would also hold your rupture under all conditions. If you will write us, we will be pleased to send you particulars of our PATENT AUTOMATIC AIR CUSHION RUPTURE APPLIANCE.

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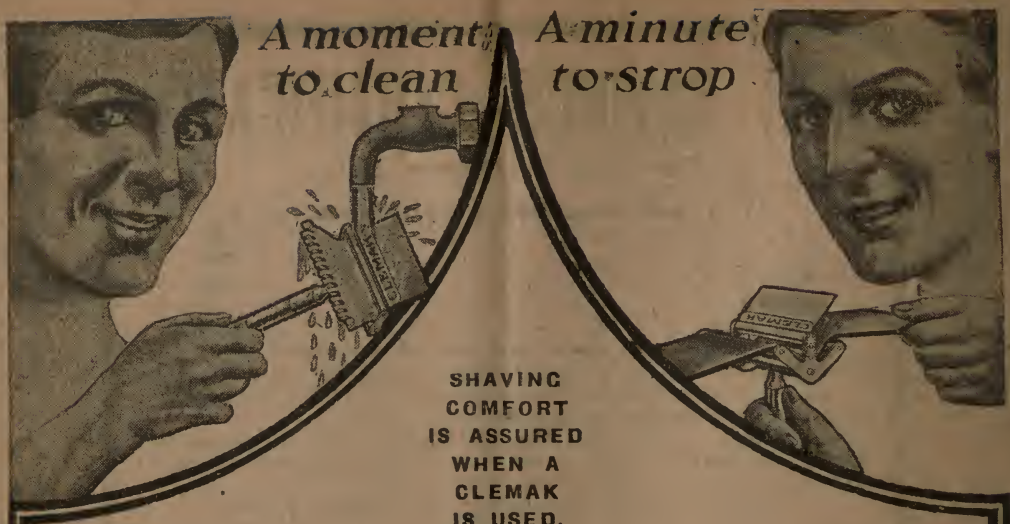

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Recruiting Campaign

TURNED DOWN

"Amongst the volunteers who lately presented themselves from Bathurst, N.S.W., was a well-known champion rifle-shot—winner of two King's, including the Victorian. The cause of the rejection was varicose veins."—Sydney "Sun," 16/9/15.

Many people who suffer more or less from this complaint, or who have it in the earlier stages when the suffering point has not yet been reached, fail to realise what an absolutely certain and distressing time they are in for by neglecting to obtain treatment to overcome the trouble.

Many are misguided by obtaining poor advice on the subject; they are told that the veins don't amount to anything, or that no known remedy is available; in one way or another being put off until disaster overcomes them, and then they are advised to have them out. Such advice is bad from start to finish. The worst of it is that it has cost money, as well as being useless.

Now, let us show you the other side of the story by some of those who have proved to themselves that a real remedy does exist, and that not only is it efficacious, but that it is harmless and painless.

It would be wrong to say that the Vecsey Home Method of treating varicose veins and ulcers **speaks** for itself! Those who have used it are the ones who do the speaking for it, and who praise it loudly and long. We give you here a few instances of their praise, but would like to send you scores of letters, which tell more earnestly than we can what the treatment is capable of.

The Manager, Gatton, Qld.

Dear Sir,—I received your letter inquiring after my condition, and am pleased to tell you that my legs are all right again. I knocked the shin bone where it was previously sore, and broke the skin, and feared that the old condition might return, but your prompt reply to my request for ointment enabled me to check the trouble before it developed. I am very pleased to say that I will not require any more ointment from you. You will be pleased to hear that the veins previously so swollen and enlarged have entirely disappeared from sight and touch, as you promised they would, and all that is to be noticed is a slightly blue tinge of the skin above where they used to exist, owing probably to the discolouration of the tissue from very long duration. My legs have never bothered me in the least since discontinuing the treatment, and thanking you again,—I remain, yours sincerely,

MRS. H. CLARKE.

Manager, Vecsey. Rathscar, Vic.

Dear Sir,—After twenty years' suffering from bad Varicose Veins your treatment has given me back the use of my legs, comfortable and free from pain, and my gratitude can be better imagined than described. Since beginning the treatment, and ever since I completed it, I have noticed a vast difference in my heart action; my circulation is greatly improved, and I feel better in every respect. Prior to the treatment my heart was very bad. There is no doubt that the treatment is not only harmless, but it is wonderful as well.—Yours gratefully,

V. J. JARDINE.

The Manager, Narrandera, N.S.W.

Dear Sir,—I am sorry that I did not write you sooner. Since I received the last lot of treatment I have gone on splendidly, and my leg is quite well now, and I am very pleased to tell you that I do not require further treatment for it. However, you can imagine what pleasure it is to be able to get about again free from pain and with no evidence of the old trouble. The enlarged veins have completely subsided. Before undertaking your treatment the pain was sometimes so excruciating that I could hardly put up with it. I am very grateful to you for your attention and kindness to me during the time I was under treatment.—Yours gratefully,

E. M. McALISTER.

The Manager, Nareeb Nareeb, Vic.

Dear Sir,—Re your letter asking if I needed further treatment, I beg to advise that when I told you in my last letter that my leg seemed to be cured I found that I was not mistaken. I did not write further, as there was no necessity, and the money I paid for the treatment would have been well spent had it been ten times the amount. I had not bothered writing again, and I was waiting to see if the results were permanent, and how my leg was getting on, and it is doing splendidly. There are now only a few discoloured patches where the veins formerly existed in large knots, and I have no hesitation in saying that I firmly believe that it is now ENTIRELY CURED and all right again. Thanking you again for your attention and treatment. —I remain, yours truly,

(Signed) MRS. P. A. KELLY.

The evidence of those who have used a treatment is the best test of its efficacy. We ask you only to believe what those who have used it say.

ADVICE FREE. Send 2d. stamp for our illustrated booklet, which describes varicose veins fully, and our method of curing them. We will advise you free of any charge or obligation and supply you with scores of grateful letters from people all over the world, and right at home also, who have been restored to perfect leg health by us. Write to-day. [2613]

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